

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Two paintings by the English master William Turner and a third by German artist Caspar David Friedrich were stolen from an art gallery here in an overnight raid, police said Friday. Two thieves broke into the gallery shortly after it closed at 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) and hid themselves before overhauling the night watchman. A police spokesman said the pair handcuffed the watchman and covered his eyes with a hood before locking him in an adjoining room. The thieves made off with the paintings, worth millions of dollars. The watchman managed to raise the alarm and 10:30 p.m. Police said they had no leads on whereabouts of the stolen paintings.

Shes of Warsaw rising leader turn to Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Ashes of Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski, the commander of the heroic 1944 saw uprising against the Nazis, were returned to his homeland to be buried with his fallen soldiers. Bor-Komorowski, who led the underground army resistance movement 50 years ago, lived in London until 1966, when he died and was buried in Mersburg Cemetery. On Friday, his ashes will be taken to final rest with state funerals at Warsaw's Powazki cemetery. The ceremony is part of commemorations of the dramatic insurgency cost more than 200,000 lives and was ruthlessly crushed by German troops. Commander's call to arms on Aug. 1, 1944 was to liberate Warsaw from five years of German occupation at a moment when Soviet troops were closing in on the city. However, the revolt was doomed to failure as the Soviet Union's leader Joseph Stalin ordered his troops to stop at the insurgents, loyal to the London-based government-in-exile, bleed. After signing the city's capitulation, Gen. Komorowski was taken to his home by the Germans and World War II will be fought away from his active among Polish circles. He never returned to his homeland. During his 44 years as a Soviet Bloc, some w-back Polish politicians considered Gen. Komorowski a "war criminal" who sent thousands to death in what they considered a political game. To bring the command to Poland after the fall of communism in 1989.

Bomb damages French tax office

HENDAYE, France (AP) — A homemade bomb exploded on a Basque militant heavily damaged a tax office before dawn Saturday, day after a car-bomb linked to militants killed three people in Madrid. No injuries were reported from the bomb that went off at about 1 a.m., but the blast was heard throughout the town on the Spanish border. The explosive, placed on a window of the office, was made from a fire extinguisher filled with sodium chlorate and wired to a timer, authorities said.

Zia opens S. Asian ministers' meeting

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Saturday opened a two-day meeting of South Asian foreign ministers, calling for a collective effort among member states to help the region's 1.5 billion poor. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), founded in 1985 at a summit meeting of regional leaders in Dhaka, groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. "The creativity of the regional leadership needs to address the socio-economic ferment within our societies and lingering psycho-political reservations among member countries," said Ms. Zia.

Peres wraps up Cyprus visit

NICOSIA (R) — Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres wrapped up a three-day official visit to Cyprus on Saturday spending the whole day in the resort town of Paphos, Cypriot officials said. Mr. Peres, who signed cultural and agricultural agreements and discussed bilateral relations with his counterpart, Alocos Michaelides during the trip, was due to depart for Tel Aviv from Paphos Airport late Saturday. Tight security surrounded the Israeli foreign minister following bomb attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets in London and Argentina but he managed a couple of walk-arounds in Nicosia and in Paphos, where he viewed ancient mosaics. Both Mr. Peres and his Cypriot hosts played down suggestions that he would hold secret talks with Syrian officials while on the holiday island, which he described as a potential economic and political Switzerland of the Middle East. Cyprus, divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion, has offered to host Middle East peace talks.

5 hurt in Ramallah clashes

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israeli troops fired rubber and bullets tear-gas during clashes with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah Saturday, wounding five of them, Palestinian sources said. The troops later declared the town centre a closed military area. Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, is west of the Palestinian self-rule enclave in Jericho set up in May under the peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Woman nominated to Oman's council

MUSCAT (R) — A woman has for the first time been nominated to sit on Oman's Consultative Council, which was set up in 1991 to widen representation in government by debating proposed laws. Officials said on Saturday that the woman, whose nomination still had to be approved by the government, was among names being put forward at selection meetings in the sultanate's 50 provinces. The nomination process for the 80-seat consultative council, which resumes meetings in January, began a week ago and will continue until Aug. 15. In the Bushahr area four women attended a meeting to select candidates and one of them was nominated, officials said. The government is due to consider all the nominations.

Mandela meets with union federation

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President Nelson Mandela met with powerful labour leaders Saturday, calling on workers to support his reconstruction and development programme. Mr. Mandela has criticised members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, saying strikes that have swept the country since he was elected in April will frighten away foreign investors. "Industrial peace in our country is extremely important," Mr. Mandela told reporters Saturday. He needs investment for an ambitious project to put South Africans to work building much needed houses, schools and roads. The federation, known as COSATU, has snapped back, demanding that the country's first black-led government stand with the black workers who helped it gain power. But both sides strove for a conciliatory note Saturday.

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Jordan reiterates its non-political stand on shrines in Jerusalem
PLO to send delegation to Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Saturday expressed dismay over the controversy sparked by Israel's acknowledgement of Jordan's religious role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and said the Kingdom was only exercising its historical rights in the Holy City.

Dr. Majali was speaking to Jordan Television upon his return home from Washington after attending the June 25 summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the White House.

The King and Mr. Rabin signed a document, the Washington Declaration, ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel and setting out measures towards reaching a peace treaty. In the third clause of the declaration, Israel said it would give "high priority" to Jordan's historical role in Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

This was interpreted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as undermining its quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem, and despite Jordanian reaffirmations that the Kingdom's role in the Holy City had no political bearings, the organisation is pressing a campaign to assert what it sees as its right.

Dr. Majali told Jordan Television: "Jordan has exercised its right to the religious custody over the holy places in Jerusalem even before 1948," when the state of Israel was created.

Jordan maintained this role even after the 1967 war when Israel occupied the West Bank along with Arab East Jerusalem, and the Kingdom was seeking to "keep the link between the holy places and their Islamic and Arab identity," the prime minister said.

"The Washington Declaration did not establish a new fact, but only reaffirmed Jordan's full rights to the custody of the Islamic shrines in the Holy City," Dr. Majali said.

"There is no conflict between the Palestinians' political rights in Jerusalem and Jordan will continue to support their quest to regain their full rights" from Israel, the prime minister said.

In response to a question about the possibility of a referendum on peace referred to by King Hussein in a meeting with journalists on Thursday, Dr. Majali said that such a move and its positive outcome "will be the answer to all those who doubted the outcome of the peace process."

The Jordanian government on Friday issued a statement assuring the Palestinians of support for their political claim to the Holy City.

"There is no contradiction between maintaining Jordan's administration of the holy sites in East Jerusalem and the restoration of political sovereignty over the city through the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations," it said.

In an interview with the Cairo-based Sawt Al Arab radio, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani meanwhile denied that there was any problem between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in autonomous Gaza and Jericho over Jerusalem.

Dr. Anani emphasised that the Jordanian role in the Holy City was confined to maintaining and preserving the Islamic shrines there.

"Jordan does not have any political or territorial ambition in Jerusalem," Dr. Anani said, pointing out that the Washington Declaration did not refer to Jerusalem as a whole but only to Islamic holy places and that the issue of religious custody as well as the political and geographic issues related to the Holy City would be discussed in the "final status" negotiations as called for in the Israel-PLO declaration of principles signed on Sept. 13.

In Gaza, a spokesman for the PNA said the authority had decided to send a delegation headed by Faisal Husseini to Amman to discuss the issue.

The delegation is expected to arrive in Amman on Sunday.

The PLO's stance on the shrines has been a source of controversy since the 1993 Oslo Accords, which gave the PNA control over Gaza and Jericho but left the West Bank under Israeli occupation. The PLO has insisted on its right to the entire city of Jerusalem, including the holy sites.

Jordan's position is that it has a historical and religious right to the shrines, but it has also been a key player in the peace process between Israel and the PLO. Jordan's King Hussein has often been seen as a mediator between the two sides.

The Jordanian government's statement on Friday was seen as a clear reaffirmation of its non-political stance on the shrines, while also supporting the PLO's right to self-determination.

The PLO's delegation to Amman is expected to meet with Jordanian officials to discuss the issue in more detail.

The Jordanian government's statement also called for a peaceful resolution of the issue, and for all parties to respect the rights of all people in the region.

The Jordanian government's statement was widely welcomed by Palestinians, who see Jordan as a key ally in their struggle for self-determination.

The Jordanian government's statement was also seen as a clear signal that Jordan remains committed to the peace process, and to the goal of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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The Jordanian government's statement was a clear signal that Jordan remains committed

High population growth rate required borrowing to meet needs — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's population growth rate, currently at 4.5 per cent and one of the highest in the world, is to blame for the Kingdom's past borrowing practices that were implemented to narrow the gap among different social classes and create jobs for the unemployed by promoting services and conducting infrastructure-building schemes, according to Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib.

Organised by the planning ministry in cooperation with the Amman office of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the workshop is attended by participants from government agencies who will discuss demographic changes and their relation to development.

A report released by the National Population Commission last September predicted that Jordan's population would reach 5.2 million by the end of the century. It said the fertility rate among women aged 15-49 stood at 5.6 per cent, one of the highest among developing nations.

The government is currently preparing for a general census later this year which will provide detailed information on the population's basic needs, said Mr. Khatib.

Investment firm projects to hire 200 people from southern regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Company for Investments and the Development of the Southern Regions of Jordan will soon start projects which will employ at least 200 people from the south of the Kingdom, according to Mazen Nasser, the company's general manager.

The JD 1 million company is completing feasibility studies on establishing plants for manufacturing glass containers, soap and uniforms, among others products, said Mr. Nasser in a statement Saturday.

Created upon directives from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, the newly-formed concern is owned by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC).

According to Mr. Nasser, the JD 1 million capital will be increased as projects are implemented, adding that future schemes planned by the management would involve the employment of up to 1,000 people, primarily from southern Jordan.



Members of the General Union of Arab Writers Saturday convene at the Regency Adab magazine (Petra photo) Palace Hotel for a two-day symposium

Al Adab magazine marks 40 years on news-stands

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Adab magazine "was faithful to our Arab problems and crises at a time when many other Arab forums were funded by foreign agencies aiming at killing any attempt to build Arab minds," according to Ali Uqla U'san, president of the Arab Union of Writers in Syria.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Arab literary magazine at a two-day symposium meant to clarify the monthly's role in Arab cultural life, members of the General Union of Arab Writers met at the Regency Palace Hotel Saturday.

During the opening session on Friday, Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad addressed the gathering and asked, "where are the unity anthems and the one-nation mottoes?" Still he said, there is hope and those gathered should not fear the passing away of the giants of Arab poetry and literature because the Arab nation will certainly give birth to other giants.

Spanish T.V. team completes filming Minister sees tourism as pillar of peace, security

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During a two-week period that witnessed Israeli officials meeting their Jordanian counterparts on Jordanian soil and the signing of the Washington Declaration between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Spanish television team concluded its film making mission in the Kingdom with words of optimism and concrete plans from Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan.

"I am very optimistic because so many possibilities are open for all parties in the region including Israel," Dr. Adwan added.

The minister stressed on the future of the tourism industry pointing out that it is essential not only to Jordan, but to the entire region, because "tourism is the main pillar for sustained peace and security," and "it fosters human understanding and interaction in the long run. By the same token, peace is the foundation for the development of the tourism industry which depends on the creation of an environment conducive to investment and development," added Dr. Adwan.

In addition to increasing the number of tourists in here to make a documentary programme on Jordan.

the region, the minister said, job opportunities are expected to multiply as is regional cooperation in the field of tourism marketing.

Arab engineers plan 2 meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive bureau of the Federation of Arab Engineers (FAE) Saturday opened a two-day meeting in Amman under the chairmanship of the federation's Vice President Hosni Abu Ghaida and with the participation of delegates from Jordan, Sudan and Iraq.

The delegates will work out arrangements for convening a meeting of the federation's higher council in Amman in September and pave the ground for a pan-Arab engineering conference to be held in Sudan in February 1995, said Mr. Abu Ghaida.

Refugee host countries agree to urge more concern for Jerusalem issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab countries hosting Palestine refugees concluded a week-long meeting in Damascus and have agreed to step up efforts at the international level to pressure Israel not to pursue its policy of changing the character of Jerusalem, according to the head of the Palestine Affairs Department Asem Ghosheh.

Mr. Ghosheh, who returned from the meeting Friday, said that delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Arab League said their governments would follow up this question particularly with the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace talks.

The Damascus conference, said Mr. Ghosheh, called on Arab states to adopt a unified plan that would secure continued material and moral aid to the Palestinian people, helping them to protect their homes, lands and other property and abort Israel's attempts to seize Arab-owned property.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma returns from Stockholm meeting
AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned to Amman Saturday after leading a Jordanian delegation to an international roundtable meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, to discuss world social developments. The U.N.-sponsored meeting convened for four days during which participants focused on sustainable development and achieving a balance between resources and population growth.

Authorities seize unlicensed drugs
ZARQA (Petra) — Health and public safety

Gas station fire injures youth
AMMAN (Petra) — A fire at an old gas station in Ras Al Ain district in Amman caused the injury of a 14-year-old boy and material damage, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). The boy tossed a lit cigarette near a fuel tank causing the fire to ignite and burst one of the station's fuel pipes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Ali Abdul Sattar of Qatar at the South Theatre at 20:30.
- ★ Performance by the Dead Sea Fishing Club at the Artemis Theatre at 19:00.
- ★ Monodrama "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Artemis Theatre at 21:30.
- ★ "Happy Prince" play at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00 p.m.
- ★ "Poems and Musical Dialogue" at the Garasia Theatre at 20:00.
- ★ Monodrama entitled "The Danger of Smoking" at Garasia Theatre at 20:45.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "The Cowboys" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (128 minutes).

PLAY

- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majid Al Qasas at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ "A one-painting exhibition" (about 15-metre long which took two years to complete) by Marwan Al Allan at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
- ★ One-day flower exhibition at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The Family International Group sings songs of peace

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an atmosphere of gaiety, The Sound and Light Theatre lit up to the warmth and universal sounds of The Family International Group Thursday and Friday nights.



Besides entertainment, the family's purpose is to convey a positive message. All their songs are sung with meaning, attracting listeners with catchy tunes and magical melodies.

The Family International Group performing a Jordanian folklore piece as part of their repertoire at the

Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

the family performs in schools, hospitals, and to victims of disasters to offer people a hope that life is worth living. "We also use music for educational purposes: to teach students good values. We hope to make positive contributions to help people sense the world better," added Ms. Atalla.

During Thursday's performance, The Family International Group presented songs in English on various topics: "Smile," "Peace in the Middle of a Storm," "Avoid Argument," "Keep Up Fighting." They also performed

other uplifting songs, among which were: "Latin Beat," and "Looking at the Bright Side of Life." They concluded their 10-song repertoire with an additional two Jordanian folklore pieces.

"Around the world, there are many problems, and different influences, so we try to make them positive," Canadian singer Norman James told the Jordan Times. "We've been to 50 or 60 countries, and we felt welcomed. People like our style. In fact they need it and appreciate it."

دولت اسلامی

Aristide clears way for Haiti invasion resolution

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Haiti's president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, called for quick and decisive action to end the suffering of his people, thereby clearing the way for a resolution allowing a U.S. invasion.

In a letter to the United Nations Friday Mr. Aristide said he believed the moment had come for the international community "to take swift and decisive action under the authority of the United Nations."

Asked if the letter had received a favourable reaction, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said "absolutely."

Security Council negotiators late Friday reached broad agreement on an American-initiated draft resolution and sent it to their respective capitals for approval.

Council President Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan said members would inform him when they were ready to vote. He set tentative meeting dates for Saturday and Sunday but most delegations thought Sunday was more likely.

Russia still had some objections and Brazil's ambassador said his government still needed to study the text.

Mr. Marker said Mr. Aristide's letter was "central, was

fundamental," adding: "Without that letter there would be no resolution, there would be no action."

The letter had been sought by most delegations, particularly Latin American and Caribbean states, all of whom except Argentina are uneasy about a possible U.S. invasion in the Western hemisphere.

At issue is a resolution seeking approval for a multinational force to use "all necessary means" to bring about the departure of Haiti's military. If the United States invades, it expects to use more than 15,000 troops.

The U.S.-led force would be monitored by a small group of U.N. military observers, and the United Nations is also to field peacekeepers after the invaders leave.

The resolution asks for 6,000 peacekeepers.

Russia and some other delegations insist U.N. officials first brief the Council on what these troops would do, believing the number is too high.

Mr. Aristide said in his letter the Haitian military had increased the suffering of the country's citizens and forced many to flee.

He called the military leaders, who overthrew him in a September 1991 coup, arrogant and provocative in their continued defiance of the international community.

"This attitude has contributed to the alarming deterioration of human rights in Haiti and to the dramatic increase in the suffering of the Haitian people who have been forced to search for refuge outside their national borders," he said.

Mr. Aristide did not directly mention an invasion or use of force. He is forbidden by Haiti's constitution to call for an intervention by foreign troops.

Meanwhile, some 935 U.S. Marines and navy forces Friday carried out a landing exercise on a Puerto Rico beach, a short distance away from blockaded Haiti, informed sources said.

The exercise, involving live ammunition, included the search of mock housing and infra-red detection operations.

The men involved in the exercise were from among the 2,000 Marines and 1,700 sailors deployed aboard landing ships cruising off the blockaded Caribbean island nation of Haiti.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has warned of a possible U.S. intervention in Haiti against the military regime there.

"If the Marines go into Haiti, we're the first ones to hit the ground," Marine Lt. Col. Dave Young said. The commander of the landing battalion said he knew of no plans for a Haitian invasion.

The assault provided further saber rattling to intimidate Haiti's military rulers. It also broke the monotony of weeks at sea for the marines.

Haiti's military-backed government pressed ahead Friday with discussions on new elections this year even though most groups here say they will boycott any poll.

Officials said the government of Interim President Emile Jonassaint, which is not recognised by world community, was still uncertain whether to hold elections just for parliament or for the presidency as well.

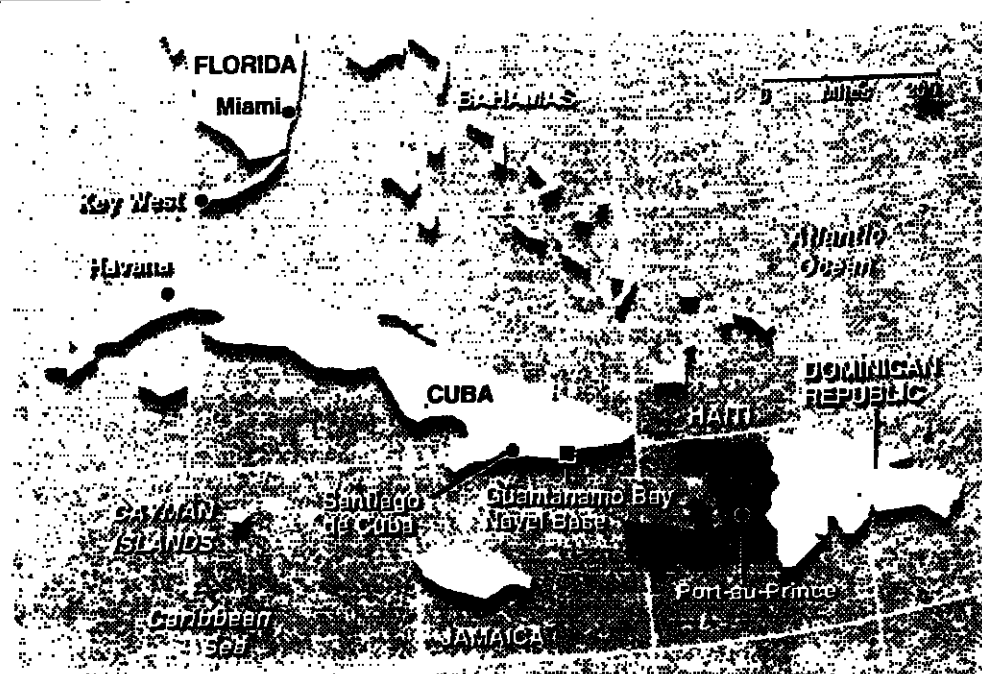
"We have not taken any final decision and we are consulting the different parties," a government adviser told AFP, speaking on condition that he not be named.

Well-informed sources said the army commanded by General Raoul Cedras, which was behind the installation of Mr. Jonassaint as temporary president in May, had not made a final decision.

With the junta under pressure to step down in favour of deposed President Aristide or face a possible U.S. invasion, officials here announced plans Tuesday to hold elections in early November.

But most political groups in Haiti have declared their intention to boycott the elections, no matter what form they take.

There is virtually no chance pro-Aristide groups will participate and Haiti's



two socialist groups, the National Congress of Democratic Movements and the Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party, will also stay away.

The country's former centrist prime minister, Marc Bazin joined the boycott Friday, saying: "The question is not how to use the elections to get out of the crisis but how to get out of the crisis to have these elections."

Mr. Bazin said he saw only one way out of the situation: "Peaceful compromise on the basis of reciprocal sacrifices."

One of the few yet to take a stand on the elections is Leslie Manigat, the former Christian-Democrat president who is in favour of keeping both Mr. Aristide and Gen. Cedras out of power.

Most observers here see

few signs of an end to the political impasse at a time when the impoverished Caribbean country is increasingly feeling the pinch of a total economic embargo imposed by the United Nations.

Relief workers and church sources say the international embargo, which has been considerably tightened since May, had led to the deaths of at least 12,000 people, mainly women, children and the elderly.

U.N. officials say another 3,000 people have been killed in the political repression inflicted on the country.

While the United States considers military action here, pro-Aristide groups have come out against an invasion and are counting on a popular uprising to overthrow the junta — a possibility seen as remote.

One merchant here, who asked not to be named, called himself a political "hostage" in the crisis. "We are condemned to suffer in silence while the international community waits for the results of the sanctions," he said.

In Washington, French Defence Minister Francois Leotard said that an invasion did not seem imminent but that he had discussed a "possible U.S. intervention" with U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

Mr. Leotard also added that France was willing to approve in principle a proposed U.N. resolution the United States has presented to the U.N. Security Council which effectively would give the nod to a U.S.-led multinational force in Haiti.

'Time-warp' triplet born 3 years later

LONDON (AFP) — A baby boy conceived at the same time as his twin sisters was born last week, three and a half years after their arrival, the press reported Saturday. Peter Hudson, 46, a builder, took out a £10,000 (\$15,000) loan to pay for in-vitro fertilisation. Doctors took 20 eggs from his wife Deirdre, 30, and produced 15 embryos. Three were implanted and twin daughters Imogen and Robyn were born in 1991. The rest of the embryos were frozen. Two years later, the couple decided they wanted a third child and asked the doctors to "defrost" the remaining embryos and implant them. "Three were successfully implanted and sadly they were all lost," Peter Hudson was quoted as saying. "We simply had to try again and the remaining embryos were used."

"Again, two were lost," he said, but one survived and Guy was born last week. Peter Hudson said in the struggle to have a family, the couple fell behind with their bills and had to sell their house. "Now we are totally broke, but totally happy. A friend got in touch and said he had heard about our plight and he gave us his cottage in Deal (southern England) where we live now," he told The Times newspaper. A report in the Daily Telegraph quoted test tube fertility expert Dr. Peter Brinsden as saying that "time-warp" triplets would become more common as increasing numbers of babies are born from frozen embryos. He added that the triplets are not identical as they came from separate eggs, although from the same batch of embryos.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Breyer confirmed to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Senate has overwhelmingly confirmed President Bill Clinton's nominee Stephen Breyer to the nine-judge U.S. Supreme Court. Reflecting broad bipartisan support, the vote was 87-9 in favour of the 55-year-old Boston judge who will be sworn in next week. He replaces retiring Justice Harry Blackmun. President Bill Clinton introduced Judge Breyer to a Boys Nation gathering at the White House. Judge Breyer is his second nominee to the high court after Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a women's rights advocate who joined the court last year. Judge Breyer and Judge Ginsberg on the Supreme Court, Mr. Clinton said, "shows we can have excellence on the Supreme Court that unites the American people rather than divides them."

Judge Breyer will be the 108th justice to sit on the court, the top legal authority in the United States which rules on many of the leading controversial issues before the country. Both Democrats and Republicans voiced strong backing for him, with Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat and Orrin Hatch, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee praising his honesty and integrity.

Balladur is ahead in polls

PARIS (AFP) — French conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur would beat all potential rivals on the left if a presidential election were held now, according to an opinion poll to be published Sunday. In a contest with Jacques Delors, the Socialist outgoing European Commission president, Mr. Balladur would score 57 per cent against 43 per cent for Mr. Delors, the poll by the IFOP institute showed. He would also beat former Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard 66 per cent to 39. But Mr. Delors would defeat neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, 52 per cent to 48 per cent.

Armenians protest against government

MOSCOW (AFP) — Some 50,000 Armenians demonstrated calmly in Yerevan late Friday to protest continuing economic misery under President Levon Ter-Petrosian. ITAR-TASS news agency said Saturday. The rally was organised by the National Democratic Union, made up of former Ter-Petrosian allies, turned opponents. No violent incidents were reported, but speakers called for the resignation of the government, elections and a new constitution. Achot Manucharian, a former presidential advisor on internal security, said Armenia had become a police state and accused the Interior Ministry of having links to organised crime. About 25,000 people attended another National Democratic Union rally in Yerevan on July 1. Armenia's severe economic crisis has been sharpened by the government's support for Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave inhabited mainly by Christian Armenians in Muslim Azerbaijan. The Yerevan government officially denies involvement in the war.

Emergency declared in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Gov. Pedro Rossello declared a state of emergency and called out the National Guard Thursday to help Puerto Rico deal with its worst drought in more than 30 years. Mr. Rossello also asked U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to declare this U.S. commonwealth's farming industry in a state of disaster and allocate federal funds. "I submit this urgent petition with regret, after concluding, after many months of determined effort and careful evaluation, that the government of Puerto Rico must now seek aid to fight the devastating impact on our territory of the most severe drought in more than 30 years," Mr. Rossello said in a statement. A drought that began last September has cut into agriculture and forced water authorities to begin rationing in May. It has also hit tourism and industry on this Caribbean island 1,000 miles (1,600 km) southeast of Miami. Puerto Rico has received only 64 per cent of its normal rainfall this year. The water level at the major reservoir that serves the San Juan area is more than 20 feet (9 meters) below capacity. Compounding the problem, the 31-year-old Carraizo Reservoir is so clogged with accumulated silt that it has only 35 per cent of its original capacity.

Kok to form new Dutch government

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on Friday asked socialist Vice-Premier and Finance Minister Wim Kok to form a new government made up of the Labour Party and two liberal parties, it was announced here. Mr. Kok, who had been asked by Queen Beatrix on July 6 to look into forming a new coalition, handed over his report to her Friday and was immediately told to go ahead. Following consultations with the country's four main political parties, the PvdA (Labour Party), the VVD (right wing liberals), the D66 (left wing liberals) and the CDA (Christian Democrats) Mr. Kok proposed what he called a "violet" coalition comprising the PvdA, VVD and D66. Mr. Kok said the three parties were all willing to take part in a coalition

although they reserved the right to discuss and carry out further work on his proposed government programme, in particular on Mr. Kok's proposed budget for 1995.

U.N. creates post of inspector general

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The 184-member General Assembly created an inspector general's Friday to probe mismanagement and waste in the United Nations after months of vigorous lobbying by the Clinton administration. The new post, called the Office of Internal Oversight Services, has the authority to initiate and carry out investigations into all U.N. programmes, including peacekeeping, after growing criticisms of waste and abuse. Whistle-blowers will be protected. With the United States already in arrears to the United Nations for more than \$1 billion in dues and peacekeeping costs, the U.S. Congress last year threatened to withhold more money unless an inspector-general was appointed. "The passage of this resolution constitutes an historic step forward for the United Nations," said U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright in her speech to the assembly. "It establishes a mechanism with the independence, resources and clout to make a real difference in how this institution operates. And it will be good for those — our taxpayers — who pay the U.N.'s bills," she said.

Bhutto orders Karachi cleaned up

KARACHI (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto spent this week getting reacquainted with her troubled hometown of Karachi, a city where few people have electricity but most own guns. A week of feuding between militant Shiite and Sunni Muslim groups has given rise to sectarian hit squads. At least six well-known Shiite or Sunni activists have been gunned down. Profit-driven crime is also soaring. On Thursday, heavily-armed bandits pinned down dozens of police in a three-hour gun battle. One police officer was killed and several were wounded, but all the criminals escaped, according to police officials. If that weren't enough, unusually heavy monsoon rains have left the city's poorest wading waist-deep in water. Sewage lines have backed up, mountains of rain-soaked garbage are crawling with rats, and authorities are trying to stave off a cholera epidemic. An estimated 1.5 million illegal immigrants, mostly from Bangladesh, Iran and India, have flooded into this city of nine million searching for jobs. Many have brought their old rivalries with them.

2 ex-ministers arrested in Gambia

DAKAR (R) — Gambia's new head of state Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh said Friday two army captains who were sacked from the cabinet had been arrested on suspicion of planning to sabotage his coup. Lt. Jammeh told Senegalese Television Captain Shamsudeen Sarr, sacked Wednesday from the Trade Ministry, and Captain Omar Cham, the former information minister, had given information to the former government of ousted President Sir Dawda Jawara. Lt. Jammeh said they had given army uniforms to ex-soldiers who planned to set up illicit road blocks and carry out looting. They were sacked from the cabinet Wednesday in the second reshuffle since young officers led by Lt. Jammeh ousted Sir Dawda last Friday. Vice-President Sana Sabally Thursday denied talk of a counter-coup and said Lt. Jammeh had wanted to put more civilians in his government. In the Gambian capital Banjul, police said Sir Dawda's Local Government Minister Yaya Ceesay had been arrested trying to flee to the neighbouring Senegalese province of Casamance disguised as a woman. They said six former cabinet ministers were now in detention. A Gambian delegation led by Foreign Minister Bolong Sonko visited Senegal Friday and pleaded for the outside world to have patience and judge the army-led government by its actions rather than rush to condemn it.

MX missile hit by gunfire

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif (R) — An unarmed MX nuclear missile being shipped in a railroad boxcar was hit by random gunfire, causing at least \$11 million in damage, the air force said Friday. The \$70 million missile, also known as the Peacekeeper, was hit by one bullet each in its first and second stages on its way last month to Vandenberg Air Force Base from F.E. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne, Wyoming, said First Lieutenant John Dorrian. The damage to the MX, part of America's stockpile of intercontinental ballistic missiles, was discovered June 20 during a routine inspection, the Vandenberg spokesman said. The two stages were "rendered inoperable" and have since been shipped to a missile silo in Utah to be destroyed. Lt. Dorrian said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and air force officials were investigating the incident but so far have not determined whether the disassembled missile was hit along its route, he said. "Right now they're treating this as a random act and not something that was calculated," Lt. Dorrian said. "The total estimate of damage would be at least \$11 million."

Chechnya almost 'out of control' — Russia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Unrest inside Chechnya has plunged the Russian separatist republic into a virtual state of lawlessness, the Russian government charged Friday. In a statement to the ITAR-TASS agency, the government said Chechnya was "almost out of control," directly blaming the North Caucasus republic's President Dzhokhar Dudayev for the deteriorating situation.

The statement came hours after the bloody end to the four mass-hostage-taking in southern Russia in eight months, all of which have been linked with the tiny Muslim state.

Mr. Dudayev's "ambitions" political strategy which tried to "present Russia as the enemy of the Chechen people" had led to the republic's isolation and was "the principal factor in the destabilisation of the North Caucasus," the statement said.

Sources close to the Chechen opposition say armed pro- and anti-Dudayev factions have been embroiled in clashes for the last 10 days, with the latter taking control of several regions.

Mr. Dudayev proclaimed the republic's independence at the end of 1991 and dissolved parliament in April

called for investigations into ways of suspending Russian television broadcasts throughout Chechnya as they were waging a "psychological war against the Chechen state and its people."

The Moscow government's statement, issued after three years of indecision over Chechnya's attempted secession, effectively called on the Chechen people to topple their president.

The statement, which followed a much softer line taken by President Boris Yeltsin earlier this week, seemed to indicate that the Kremlin was ready to act to reassert control.

"The policy of the current Chechen leadership has become the main destabilising factor in the north Caucasus... organised criminal groups permanently infiltrate from Chechnya... to commit dangerous crimes," it said, accusing Mr. Dudayev of suppressing opposition by force and killing hundreds of people.

"The Russian government declares with determination that if violence is used against Russia's citizens in Chechen Republic, be they Chechens or Russians, it will be obliged to protect them in accordance with the Russian constitution," it added.

Indefinite strike hits Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — An indefinite strike ordered by Muslim militants to protest the arrest of their top leaders paralysed normal life Saturday in Kashmir, officials said.

Officials, seven people died and 20 houses were gutted Saturday during a fierce gun battle between Muslim rebels and Indian troops in the Kashmiri town of Sore, 55 kilometres north of Srinagar, police said.

In Srinagar, government offices, banks, shops and schools shut Friday in line with the strike called jointly by the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the Islamic Students League (ISL).

Private vehicles went off the streets and residents stayed indoors as the general strike took hold in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of anti-Indian rebellion raging in the Himalayan region.

The JKLF and the ISL

separatist groups have warned that the indefinite strike would last until the release of their leaders. They have also demanded the withdrawal of Indian troops from a sacred Muslim shrine in Srinagar.

JKLF leader Yasin Malik, Shaker Ahmad Bakshi, leader of the banned ISL, and 11 other Muslim separatist leaders were arrested Thursday during a protest at Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, the Hazratbal Mosque.

They were protesting against the bunkers erected by Indian paramilitary troops around the shrine, which houses a sacred hair which Kashmiri Muslims believe came from the beard of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Muslim separatist leaders were driven away in a bus to an unknown destination by Indian troops.

Police said Malik, who returned to Kashmir in May after four years in prison, had wanted to launch a hunger

strike inside the mosque to demand the dismantling of the security pickets around the lakeside shrine.

Indian troops erected the checkpoints in November following a month-long army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque to flush out several dozen Muslim guerrillas holed up inside.

Although the mosque remains open, most Kashmiri Muslims have refused to visit it until the Indian troops leave the area. Around 200 to 250 faithful pray there every day.

India accuses neighbouring Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim militants battling Indian rule. Islamabad denies the charge, but gives moral support to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Nearly 10,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when the anti-Indian rebellion in the Himalayan territory turned violent.

Senate explores suicide of Clinton lawyer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate is kicking off its Whitewater hearings by exploring a topic that was taboo for the House: The suicide of White House lawyer Vincent Foster.

After opening statements Friday, the Senate Banking Committee is to hear from police and forensic experts who ruled that Mr. Foster — who handled Whitewater legal matters for the president — took his own life.

Mr. Foster was found dead of a gunshot wound on July 20, 1993, in a Virginia park outside Washington.

Even though there was a bipartisan decision to review the matter, Republicans — because of the attacks on the findings — face the greater danger of political backlash if the public thinks that consideration of this matter is unseemly.

The House Banking Committee conducted its second Whitewater hearing Thursday. It produced little new information, but was extraordinary for the 10 top White House aides who sat together at the witness table.

Over a span of 12 hours, Republicans insinuated these top-echelon officials — and an earlier witness, former White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum — acted improperly once they learned that President Bill Clinton's former land venture was under investigation.

Counselor to the president Mark McLarty summed up their response: "Nothing happened."

Chinese province battles rampant sex

HONG KONG (R) — The fight against a rising tide of prostitution in China is being thwarted by complacent officials who consider it a necessary evil that could improve the investment environment. Chinese newspapers reported. Years of communist puritanism had greatly reduced prostitution and drugs in China, but newly rich coastal provinces say they are now fighting a relapse. Booming Guangdong province, whose exports accounted for over 30 per cent of the national total, recently announced a campaign against "the seven social evils", the term China uses for crimes including prostitution. "Some (regional) party leaders think these evils are inevitable... or harmless, and can even improve the investment environment," said the official Guangzhou Daily newspaper. The daily Nanfang Ribao reported police in Foshan arrested over 30 prostitutes and more than 20 customers after a raid on an entertainment centre highly popular for its all-in-one service — namely alcohol, sex and gambling. The Guangzhou Daily said Haizhou district police sentenced two women to 15 days detention for taking part in a striptease show. The women were part of an eight-woman troupe touring the province charging customers 10 yuan (\$1.20) per ticket. This latest crackdown is just the latest in a series of on-again off-again anti-vice campaigns.

U.N.: Rwandan 'graph of death' goes down

GOMA, Zaire (R) — The daily toll from cholera in the cramped Rwandan refugee camps of eastern Zaire is going down, the United Nations said Saturday.

But as the threat from cholera waned, dysentery was spreading and could pose an even greater danger, the French medical agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) — Doctors Without Borders — said.

The number of reported cases of cholera is continuing to rise but the percentage of deaths of reported cases is decreasing quite rapidly now, Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters.

"We estimate the number of cases will increase in the next few days but the graph of death is going down," he said.

Doctors estimated the death rate among the 1.2 million refugees around Goma declined in the past few days from as many as 1,800 per day to 1,200, with cholera the main killer, he said.

Mr. Wilkinson and aid workers said the reason for the decline in deaths was that the cholera epidemic was running its two-week course and conditions in the camps were improving.

Citing the threat from dysentery, MSF spokeswoman Samantha Bolton said: "The mortality rate for cholera when it is treated is one per cent while dysentery is seven per cent. Not as many have it as cholera but it is increasing."

Aid officials said five reported cases of meningitis in the camps this week were not yet a cause for alarm. Similarly the threat of cholera spreading across the border into Rwanda with refugees returning home was not yet a big problem.

"Five cases of meningitis doesn't mean... an epidemic. It's normal," said Kadri Tankari of the World Health Organisation. "There is cholera in Rwanda but it is not a major problem."

Mr. Wilkinson said the UNHCR was stepping up efforts against a campaign of harassment and intimidation by thugs trying to stop refugees of Rwanda's Hutu majority from returning home.

"The majority of people are still not convinced it is safe to go back," he said.

Supporters of the ousted Hutu government-in-exile in Zaire are roaming the camps, telling refugees that any who return will have their throats slit and bellies cut open by members of the victorious Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Journalists have been threatened and driven out of the camps by stone-throwing men who accuse the media of siding with the RPF in its three-month war for control of the central African country.

Hutu extremists have also handed out bundles of New Rwandan francs to their henchmen and former government soldiers who fled the Tutsi-dominated rebels.

"We realise these people have been traumatised... but the degree of lies being spread by these people is harassment," Mr. Wilkinson said. "I expect intimidation to increase as they lose their constituency."

Some 2.7 million Rwandans fled to neighbouring countries to escape the rebels after more than 500,000 people, mostly from the minority Tutsi tribe and Hutu opponents of the government, were massacred by Hutu militiamen and government soldiers.

Mr. Wilkinson said the UNHCR was urging Zairean authorities to stop the coercion and U.N. field officers were going into the camps to explain to the refugees that the agency considered it safe for them to return to Rwanda.

The UNHCR estimates that some 70,000 Rwandan refugees have returned across the border since it reopened a week ago, but expects a hard core of former officials and killers and their families to stay long after most return.

U.S. President Bill Clinton asked Congress Friday for an extra \$325 million for the Rwanda relief operation and is considering whether to create a base for U.S. troops in the Rwandan capital Kigali to train refugees home.

France, which sent 2,500 troops last month to set up a safe zone for refugees in southwest Rwanda under a U.N. mandate, began pulling out its forces Friday despite appeals from aid agencies to stay.

The United States will start sending up to 200 troops into Rwanda as early as this weekend to increase the number of aid flights into Kigali and to help distribute supplies.

But U.N. officials said operations were being severely hampered by a shortage of aircraft fuel that forced the cancellation of 14 flights Friday.



A Rwandan mother suffering from cholera breast-feeds her child at the Katala refugee camp, north of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)



A Rwandan volunteer lays bodies of Rwandan children, victims of cholera, on a stretcher at the Katala refugee camp, some 60 kilometres north of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)

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of chastity

INGTON (AFP) — A of 211,163 young Amer- of both sexes took a vow of chastity before age Friday by planting cards proclaiming sexual abstinence on the of the Mall in Washing- President Bill Clinton ved a delegation of people at the White who had responded to True Love Waits' nent launched by Bap- ongregations in the n states. The move- is now supported by 26 n organisations and minations. The signed bore the legend: "Be- that true love waits. I a commitment to God, my family, those I ny future mate and my children to be sexually until the day I enter ge." Three quarters of ng people in the Un- ates have sexual inter- before leaving second- education and 40 per e sexually active when ter ninth grade, at age 5, according to a study ed in 1990 by the Cen- r Disease Control.

ese province
es rampant

KONG (R) — The against a rising tide of id by being placed by complicit off- to consider it a neces- it that could improve estment environment. Years of communist ad had greatly re- prostitution and drugs a, but newly rich coas- vances say they are ighting a relapse. ng Guangdong pro- whose exports ed for over 30 per the national total. announced a cam- gainst "the seven so- ", the term China or crimes including "Some (region- y leaders think these re inevitable... or s, and can even im- the investment en- nt," said the official hou Daily Nanfang reported police in arrested over 20 es and more than 20 rs after a raid on an ument centre highly r for its all-in-one ser- namely alcohol, sex- biling. The Guang- ily said Haizhou dis- ly said sentenced two o 15 days detention g part in a striptease e women were part e women troupe the province charging s 10 yuan (\$1.20) . This latest crack- a just the latest in a on-again off-again campaigns.

Powers to tighten sanctions against Bosnian Serbs

GENEVA (R) — Foreign Ministers from the United States, Russia and the European Union agreed Saturday to move to tighten sanctions against rump Yugoslavia over the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to approve a new peace plan.

The ministers also agreed on "vigorous action" to prevent sanctions violations in the region but, according to a text of a joint declaration after a four-hour meeting, did not approve any immediate military action against the Serbs.

But they warned that if the Serbs continued to stall over the plan — drawn up by a five-power contact group — the lifting of an arms embargo on former Yugoslavia in favour of Bosnia's Muslim-led government "could become unavoidable."

The declaration said the ministers — with Britain, France and Germany representing the EU — "expressed their profound regret" that the Serbs had not accepted the peace plan.

"They called on the Bosnian Serb leadership to urgently reconsider their response and to provide a clear acceptance of the contact group proposal," it said.

The ministers also warned the Serbs "against any renewed effort to effect the strangulation of Sarajevo" and expressed commitment to strengthening and extending safe areas and exclusion zones in Bosnia.

The one contact group member seen as sympathetic to the Serb cause, Russia, reacted angrily to the Serbs' intransigence on the eve of the foreign ministers' meeting, accusing them of deception.

"We've done all we can for the Serbs... and they have not taken even half a step to reciprocate," Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev told Russian journalists on arrival in Geneva.

He said Moscow had launched numerous initiatives on behalf of the Serbs and had sent Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on a special mission

this week, "but we feel essentially that we have been deceived. In any event, we see no movement whatsoever."

A member of the Serb leadership, Vice-President Biljana Plavsic, insisted that the Serbs' response to the peace plan had not been one of defiance.

"I cannot believe that there are no sensible people in the contact group who cannot or will not understand that our declaration is not a war cry but an explanation of what we want, and all we want is what the other side got — our own state and its right to function," she said on Serbian radio.

The Bosnian Serbs self-declared assembly turned down the plan Thursday for the second time this month, saying it was willing to negotiate further but reiterating demands for major amendments, including the right to secede from Bosnia.

Bosnia's Muslims and Croats have reluctantly approved the plan, which awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to their federation with the rest going to the Serbs, who hold about 70 per cent.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called for tough action against the Serbs.

"We have to give a firm response to the Serbs since they are ones who have rejected the plan and we have to prevent the reigniting and spreading of the war in Bosnia," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he was working to maintain unity with Russia and European allies whose differences over tactics could undermine the peace plan.

"I think it's important that we maintain the unity of the contact group and more importantly, the progress that the contact group has achieved," he said.

European Union mediator Lord Owen said tougher sanctions and military measures may be used against the Serbs.

The Bosnian Serbs are showing an intransigence which is forcing the international community to face up to the possibility of having to take firmer military action," said BBC Radio.

In Sarajevo, the United Nations reported continued shelling on Muslim and Serb fronts across Bosnia over the past 24 hours.

Around the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde there were 35 ceasefire violations, some of them believed to be the result of Serb forces testing new assault rifles, U.N. spokesman Major Dacre Holloway said.

Another violation of the U.N.-imposed heavy weapons total exclusion zone around Gorazde was recorded at dawn Sunday, when a mortar was fired southwest of Gorazde town. The U.N. has been embarrassed by the discovery of a number of Serb heavy weapons within the zone in recent days.

In Sarajevo, snipers wounded two tram passengers Friday afternoon as civilians dodged bullets and French U.N. soldiers shot back at suspected Serb sniper positions.

U.N. officials held talks with Bosnian Serb leaders to try to persuade them to allow the reopening of main commercial route into the city, but left the meeting in Pale empty-handed.

Bosnian Serb soldiers believe they have called the West's bluff by rejecting the latest peace plan and are publicly playing down the possibility of any major military action against them by the big powers.

"We do not expect anything spectacular, at least not in the immediate future," a senior Bosnian Serb army officer, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

He was speaking in Grbavica, in a shell-gutted house on the front line Miljacka River which divides the Muslim and Serb-held areas of Sarajevo.

Punitive military measures against the Bosnian Serbs could include the expansion of weapons exclusion zones, strict enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia and the possible lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslims.

The Serbs see this as direct involvement by NATO on the side of their rivals. But in public at least they do not seem too perturbed at the idea.

"Should the Muslims attack us, as they have done so countless times before, the Serbs will go on a counter-offensive and then there is no power in the world that will stop us," the Bosnian Serb officer said.

His leader, Radovan Karadzic, told the Bosnian Serb Assembly two weeks ago that if it rejected the peace plan, the Serbs would have to launch a decisive attack on the Muslims to defeat them once and for all.

He also said they would have to down as many NATO planes as possible and capture their pilots — an apparent reference to horrific television images of a U.S. flier being dragged through the streets by a mob in Somalia.

"If NATO gets involved, then it had better prepare its public to welcome back their troops in plastic bags," the Bosnian Serb officer said.

But the Serbs, aware that their weaponry and air defence are no real match for sophisticated NATO equipment, are believed to be counting on being able to exploit differences among the major powers.

Ageing soldiers manning trenches at points only 20 metres away from their Muslim foes on Mount Trebevic overlooking Sarajevo say they could not care less.

"What are they threatening us with? With war? Well I got news for them, son — I have been waging a bloody, terrible war for two years now and more of it could not make much of a difference," a veteran said.

Scalfaro puts damper on Berlusconi plan

ROME (R) — Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has denied Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's efforts to distance himself from his vast business holdings so the tycoon-turned-politician can concentrate on governing.

Mr. Scalfaro, in a statement issued late Friday night, said that, while he appreciated Mr. Berlusconi's plan, constitutional restraints would probably prevent him from being its chief guarantor.

On Friday morning, Mr. Berlusconi had announced the deal under which his interests in the Fininvest empire would be frozen. He proposed it after insisting opposition demands that he had to make a clean break with \$7 billion-a-year turnover group in order to avoid conflict of interest.

Mr. Berlusconi said he would submit a bill under which Mr. Scalfaro, the two speakers of parliament and anti-trust authorities would jointly appoint a committee to oversee Fininvest as long as Mr. Berlusconi, who was elected in a dramatic victory in a general election in March, remained in office.

But the presidential palace statement said that "it does not appear probable" that Mr. Scalfaro could be involved directly in naming members of such a committee.

It added that Mr. Scalfaro would wait three years before proposing anti-trust and conflict-of-interest legislation

issued their report in the autumn before taking a stand on Mr. Berlusconi's proposal.

It made clear Mr. Scalfaro believed the choice of the members of the committee would almost certainly have to fall on parliament.

Mr. Berlusconi intends to present the plan as a proposed law to parliament, probably in September.

The prime minister, who heads a 10-week-old conservative government, has not yet reacted to the presidential statement.

Mr. Scalfaro expressed appreciation for Mr. Berlusconi's decision to resolve what the president called "the delicate problem of conflict of interest."

Some political commentators said the presidential statement was a defeat for Mr. Berlusconi because, although his proposal for the committee would most likely go forward, it would be less authoritative as Mr. Scalfaro would not be a guarantor.

"Scalfaro says stop to Berlusconi," read a headline in the Milan daily Corriere Della Sera. "Scalfaro freezes Berlusconi's plans," the Roman daily Messaggero said.

Some newspapers saw Mr. Scalfaro's move as another sign of what some commentators have called a scratchy relationship between the president and Mr. Berlusconi.

But others, such as the Rome newspapers L'Informazione and L'Opinione, played down the significance of the

presidential statement.

Pressure on Mr. Berlusconi to break with Fininvest came to a head earlier in the week when anti-graft magistrates in Milan issued an arrest warrant for his brother Paolo, who runs part of the family business.

Paolo turned himself in Friday to face charges in connection with a probe into bribes alleged to have been paid to financial authorities in return for lenient audits.

Mr. Berlusconi, announcing plans to freeze his ties to the company it took him 30 years to build, told a news conference: "Now no one will be able to cast aspersions on the legitimacy of this government." He added: "I intend to be governing for a long time... Italy needs a government capable in every sector of enacting great reforms."

Meanwhile, Rocco Buttiglione, a Catholic philosopher close to the Pope, was elected leader Saturday of the Popular Party (PPD), successor of the disgraced Christian Democrats (DC) who once dominated post-war Italian politics.

"This is a victory over an old logic that no longer exists, that of the old oligarchy of the party," Mr. Buttiglione said.

But the narrow margin of his victory over former Interior Minister Nicola Mancino, with only 56 per cent of delegates' votes, underscored divisions in the party which is trying to rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the DC.

Mr. Buttiglione, 46, a leader of the right and centre of the party, wants to lead the PPD, currently part of the opposition, to closer relations with the conservative parties that make up the coalition of Mr. Berlusconi.

"Those who want to become part of the government have won," a distraught Mr. Mancino said, adding that the election could provoke a schism in the party.

But Franco Rocchetta, a leader of the Northern League which is one of the key parties in Mr. Berlusconi's coalition, welcomed Mr. Buttiglione's election.

"He is an intelligent and proper person, one you can deal with," Mr. Rocchetta said.

Supporters of Mr. Buttiglione want the party to make a clean break with the scandal-tainted past.

As he read his victory speech at a Rome hotel, his supporters chanted "De Mita out, De Mita out."

Ciriaco De Mita, a former party secretary who served as prime minister in 1988-1989, did not run for parliament in the March elections after party leaders told him he was too much as symbol of the past.

The left wing of the party, led by Mr. Mancino and Mr. De Mita, favoured a pact with progressives including the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left, which lost to the Berlusconi-led Freedom Alliance in landmark general elections last March.

Fresh strike call puts pressure on Nigeria rulers

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government faced more pressure Saturday after a sit-at-home protest action and await further directives, it said in a communique.

The strike by the oil workers' unions NUPENG and PENGASSAN to try to force the release of Mr. Abiola, undeclared winner of an army-organised presidential elections in 1993, has disrupted domestic fuel supplies, transportation and normal business.

Nigeria's worst crisis for decades deepened after Mr. Abiola, a wealthy southern businessman, was arrested last month and charged with treason for declaring himself president.

There is rising concern that the crisis could degenerate into ethnic chaos as southern resentment grows at what political leaders there see as the determination of the northern ruling elite to retain power.

The mainly Muslim north has provided Nigeria's poli-

Congress and Nigerian workers to, as from Wednesday Aug. 3, 1994, embark on a sit-at-home protest action and await further directives," it said in a communique.

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There is rising concern that the crisis could degenerate into ethnic chaos as southern resentment grows at what political leaders there see as the determination of the northern ruling elite to retain power.

The mainly Muslim north has provided Nigeria's poli-

tical leadership for virtually the entire period since independence from Britain in 1960. The predominantly Christian south wields economic power.

The north-south divide was at the root of the civil war over breakaway Biafra, in which more than a million people died in the late 1960s.

Muslim and Christian communities have been holding round-the-clock prayer vigils for peace throughout the country.

NLC's President Pascal Bafyau told reporters Friday that if Abiola was freed before Wednesday, the congress' central Working Committee would meet to reconsider the strike call.

Mr. Abiola is due to appear again in a court in the inland capital Abuja Tuesday.

On Thursday hundreds of his supporters clashed with police outside the courthouse, where at least one protester was killed and more than 100 were arrested.

Scattered anti-government protests have persisted, particularly in Mr. Abiola's Yoruba-speaking southwest, Nigeria's leading commercial region.

The NLC communique said a 10-man delegation had met both military ruler General Sani Abacha and Mr. Abiola seeking a solution. The government had refused to respond positively to labour's demand that detainees be freed and closed media organisation reopened, it added.

Gen. Abacha hinted that his administration is ready to free Mr. Abiola on condition that he renounces his claim to the presidency.

But Mr. Abiola, backed by an alliance of politicians, retired generals and pro-democracy activists, has insisted on the validity of the election process which former military President Ibrahim Babangida, a northerner, annulled just as Mr. Abiola appeared to be headed for certain victory.

Cambodia condemns barbarous train attack

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The government strongly condemned the Khmer Rouge Saturday for ambushing a train in southern Cambodia where some 16 people were feared killed and three foreigners abducted.

Police said they had no leads on the fate of the missing foreigners and that no ransom notes had been received for their release.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia vehemently and strongly condemns the Khmer Rouge for their wanton and barbarous attack on the train," a government statement said.

A Khmer Rouge "rebel group" attacked the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville train Tuesday as it was passing through southern Kampot province.

The guerrillas "looted all valuables and ordered the survivors off the train and marched them to the bush where they were held hostage," the statement said.

"This attack proves yet again that the Khmer Rouge have continued to commit crimes against the Cambo-

dian people as well as foreign nationals," it said.

"This... should amply justify the request for external military assistance of the Royal Government of Cambodia."

All but 30 Cambodian hostages had been freed, it said. But police officials quoted a report from the governor of Kampot saying that only three foreigners and three ethnic Vietnamese were still missing.

Police officials said they believed the three foreigners — identified as Australian

David John Wilson, 29, Briton Mark David Slater, 28, and French Jean Marie Braquet, 27 — were tourists.

Their respective embassies, however, have not confirmed their identities.

The Kampot report also updated the casualty figures from the raid, saying that 13 people had been killed in the attack, including five soldiers, two train militia and six civilians, police said.

Railway director Pich Kim-sreang earlier said that the three hostages were also feared dead.

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us line

Instead of hucking me corner where another awaits, the United States should clearly offer North Korea — if it agrees to abandon nuclear arms, diplomatic recognition, trade and modest international assistance.

And if Pyongyang proper assurances, agreement, America should, last, phase out its troops from South Korea. To South is fully capable of defending itself. The United States could back such a defence by naval or air power off shore.

Let's not rush to war Korea or Haiti or anywhere else simple to avoid "decision." It is worth noting that the last time an American president intervened in Haiti to restore democracy and order, U.S. troops stayed for 19 years, with apparent improvement in Haitian democracy.

The writer, a former U.S. senator from South Dakota and the Democratic nominee for president in 1972, is currently a guest professor at the University of Innsbruck. This comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

By G. H. Jansen

History provides ample explanation why a huge wave of people is surging out of Rwanda and threatening to sweep over and swamp "drown" the next-door neighbours. Around a million persons are involved. The numbers are explained by the fact that Rwanda and its twin territory Burundi (for long known as Rwanda Urundi) are the most densely populated areas in Africa. And this demography in turn was the product of the area's topography, neither desert nor tropical forest but high, open, hilly country sustaining agriculture and the raising of cattle.

Which led to a feudal social system based on a racial divide: the peasants and herdsmen, eighty-five per cent of the population, belonged to the Hutu tribe, short, stocky and Negroid. The landowners were Tutsis, tall and sometimes very tall, lighter skinned and with fine Hamitic features. The Tutsis or Watutsi migrated into the area four to five centuries ago and became the feudal overlords of the down-trodden Hutu serfs.

When the Kaiser's Germany appropriated the area during the imperialist carve-up of Africa at the end of the last century, it retained the feudal structure because it was convenient to rule through existing rulers; and the Belgians did the same when they succeeded the defeated Germans in 1919. The Belgians, who were trustees of the League of Nations and then the United Nations, were so paternalistic that they kept the whole country under curfew for years on end and not because of unrest but, as they thought, because it was good for the inhabitants to go to bed early. It was only in 1959-60 that the Hutus in Rwanda challenged Tutsi domination so that when independence came in 1962, and with it democracy, the Hutu majority in Rwanda displaced the Tutsi ruling minority, killing 100,000 of them in the process. In Burundi in 1972 the opposite happened, the Tutsis being better placed



An elderly Rwandan man hit by cholera sits next to hundreds of dead bodies in a refugee camp, north of Goma (AFP photo)

A land where angels fear to tread

there because they controlled the army through Tutsi officers. They decided to "solve" their Hutu problem by eliminating Hutus — to massacre every Hutu with education, a government job or money. In three months in Burundi more than 200,000 Hutus were slaughtered, without benefit of bullet. So when the

world today expresses horror at the massacre of half a million Tutsis by the Hutu militia, it is being both naive and ill-informed because mass killings are, as we have seen, a well-established practice in Central Africa, and the Hutus are motivated by not decades but centuries of persecution and oppression. Which explains but does not excuse

the killings. To take sides in such a situation is a foolish business because today's killers are yesterday's victims and vice-versa. The present cycle of violence began on April 6 when the presidents of both Rwanda (a Hutu) and of Burundi were killed in a mysterious air crash, widely believed to be an assassination plot. In revenge for the

killing of "their" president Hutu militia in Rwanda began killing Tutsis. At this point the problem of the Tutsis in Rwanda seemed to have been solved because after the post-assassination killings there were said to be few Tutsis left in Rwanda. That would have been a final solution, which, in a way, was all very well and good. But then just at that

point a new and complicating factor came on the scene from Uganda. This was the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) which, just to confuse matters, is organised and led by Tutsis who fled into Uganda in the 1960s and 1970s but many of whose soldiers are Hutus, "moderate Hutus", it is said. Though this is a well

trained and disciplined force which has behaved itself, mostly, so far, the ordinary Hutu was not prepared to believe that, with Tutsi officers the RPF was not going to take revenge for the killing of Tutsis that followed the assassination of the Hutu president. So when the RPF militia advances the Hutu people — and there are a lot of them in Rwanda — flee before them. And since the RPF has moved north to south right across the country, most of the population of northern and central Rwanda, in a huge human wave, is now backed-up against the frontier with Zaire or is just over it inside Zaire around the town of Goma.

It is difficult enough to try and explain the Rwandan situation — with Hutus chasing Tutsis and Tutsis chasing Hutus — but dealing with it, especially by outsiders, is unimaginable. Yet the French, rushing in where angels fear to tread, have created a "safe haven" in south-western Rwanda. Will they defend it if it is attacked by the RPF or by Hutu militias, or would the attackers be Tutsis? The only sure and lasting solution for Rwanda has to be based on Hutu and Tutsi trust in each other. The RPF is attempting to achieve that but the history of Rwanda does not encourage such a possibility.

World's biggest flood of refugees seeks peace

By Lawrence Bartlett
Agence France Presse

METANGULA, Mozambique — By train, bus, boat and bicycle the world's biggest flood of returning refugees is making its way back to the world's poorest country for Mozambique's first elections after decades of war.

Along with villagers who remained in the country, they are unanimous on what the hope to achieve from the unprecedented experience of voting: "Peace."

"I'm very happy to be back," said Mohammad Adam, 68, who fled with his two young children by dugout canoe across Lake Malawi in 1983 as attacks by rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) drew closer to his village.

"I want to vote and choose a president and have peace."

He was picked up on Likoma Island off the Mozambique shore and taken the rest of the 80 kilometres across the Great Rift Valley lake to Malawi by boat.

After years in a refugee camp at Nkhata Bay, he recently returned to this village on the lakeshore of northern Niassa province in a boatlift organised by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The UNHCR says the repatriation of some 1.7 million Mozambican refugees from neighbouring countries is the biggest such operation it has ever handled — dwarfing the 390,000 who returned to Cambodia.

It is trying to get most of them back in time for elections scheduled for October in the wake of a peace agreement signed by the government and RENAMO in Rome in October 1992.

The two sides fought a 16-year civil war hard on the heels of an anti-colonial struggle against Portugal which ended in independence in 1975, bringing to power the then-Marxist Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO).

There are few signs of the approaching elections in Metangula, apart from a group of girls dancing to a rhythmic drumbeat in the shade of a spreading tree near the white sand of the lakeshore, singing the praises of President Joaquim Chissano in preparation for a competition.

But consciousness of the elections is strong in a country emerging from repressive

colonialism and nearly 20 years of one-party rule. Asked how he would vote, Mohammad Adam pointed out firmly that his choice was a secret which he was entitled to keep to himself.

Voter education in a country which has never before had an election is carried out along with registration by mobile brigades in even the most remote areas of this huge southeast African nation of some 15 million people.

In the village of Makasango some 40 kilometres east of Lichinga, capital of Niassa province, a mud hut sports a bright banner proclaiming it a temporary voter-registration centre.

Although not far from the capital, the village lies in the middle of a vast plain ringed by distant mountains and can be reached only down a rough track through grass twice the height of a man.

Outside the hut, villagers line up at a roughly-hewn wooden table to present identity documents, some dating from the colonial era and worn almost to illegibility.

If they have no documents, two witnesses have to vouch for them before their picture is taken with a Polaroid camera and they are presented with a voter registration card.

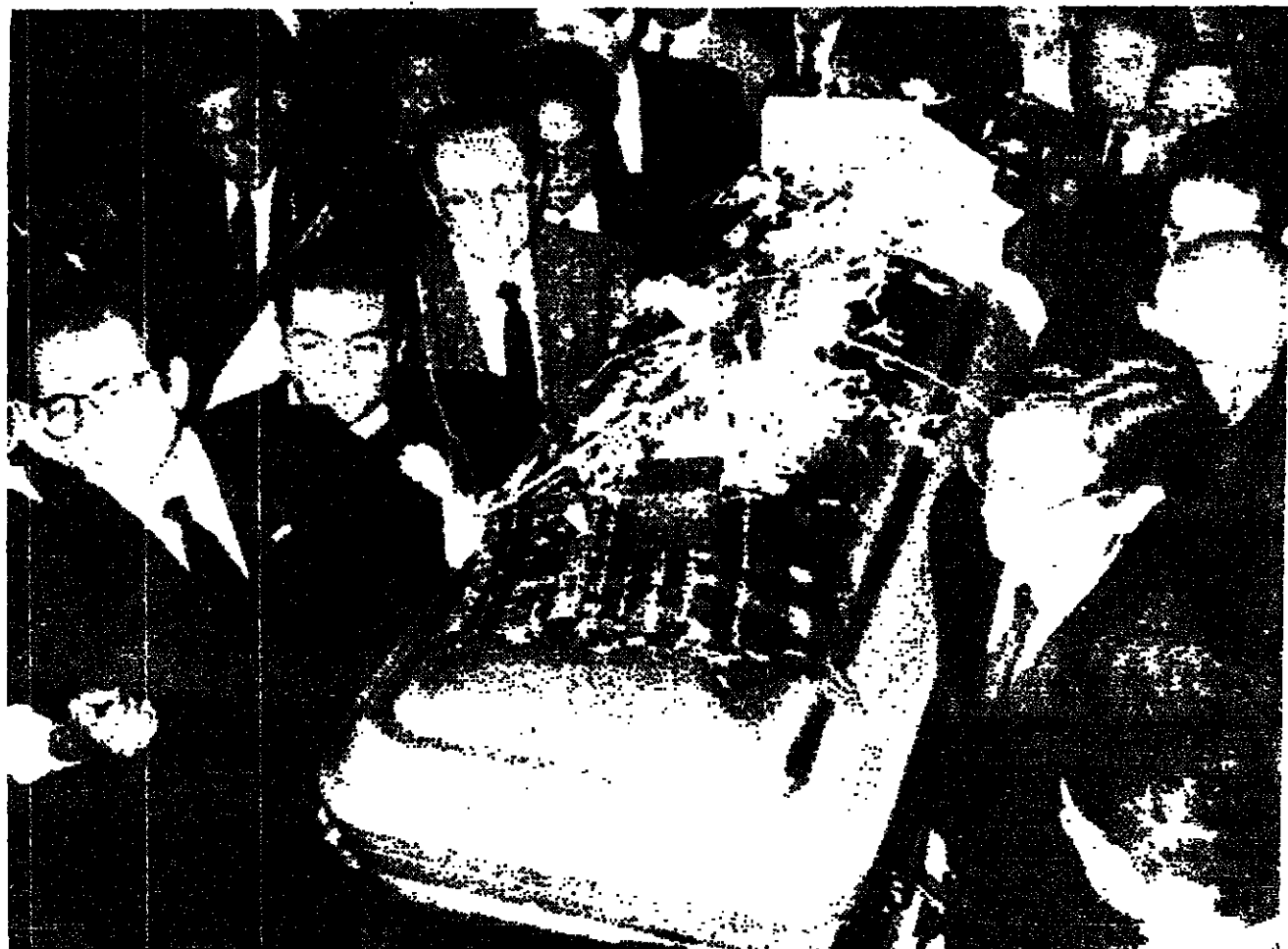
Isaac Matrese, 27, a village teacher, told AFP he was "very happy because it is the first time in my life I have registered to vote and the first time in my life I have known peace."

"The people have been living in fear. Now it is peace that is most important and I hope the elections will help peace continue."

Pressed on what else he hoped for from the elections, he said: "Later we would like to improve health and education and have a grinding mill, but basically it is peace we want."

Theresa Asima, who is not sure of her age but is the mother of three young children, also said she wanted peace and appeared surprised at the idea that she could wish for the vote to change anything more in her hard life.

The World Bank calls Mozambique the world's poorest country in terms of per capita GDP, and the World Programme (WFP) has this year been helping to feed around 1.9 million people.



Ernesto Zedillo (left), coordinator of the political campaign of Luis Coloso for the Mexican presidency helps carry his casket March 24. Coloso was assassinated at a campaign rally and Zedillo is considered to be one of the front-runners for the candidacy of president (AFP photo)

Suspensions linger in Mexico over presidential hopeful's murder

By Eduardo Garcia Aguilar
Agence France Presse

MEXICO CITY — With Mexico's presidential election set for next month, the March murder of ruling party candidate Luis Donaldo Coloso remains a source of shadowy conspiracy theories and bitter controversy.

Miguel Montes, the special prosecutor investigating Coloso's killing, announced Tuesday he had wrapped up his investigation and found that Mario Aburto, 23, acted alone when he shot Coloso on March 23 after a campaign rally in the northern border city of Tijuana.

In doing so, Mr. Montes rejected his own early hypothesis that Coloso had been the victim of a plot and that Aburto had been aided by bodyguards whom the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) hired as security for the event.

The PRI, which has ruled Mexico since 1929, and five other parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies re-

jected Mr. Montes' final conclusion as unacceptable. Several deputies alleged that a cover-up was in place.

Rumours have flown since shortly after Coloso's killing that an old guard in the PRI opposed to democratic reform had been behind the shooting. The theory is widely believed in Mexico though no real proof has surfaced to support it.

But videotapes made by police and amateur photographers have appeared to show at least five former policemen hired as security helping Mr. Aburto get near the candidate. All were imprisoned for a time, and three remain in jail with their lawyers pressing for their release.

The Mexican press and some international reports have hammered on the numerous contradictions or inconsistencies in the case, especially the trajectory of the two bullets fired by the assassin or assassins and their calibers.

Witnesses have given contradictory accounts of what

happened, there has been talk of a mysterious, politically conservative group of former police recruited for the rally called "Tucan," and questions about the actions of Coloso's top staffers at the rally.

In the end, Mexican media treated Mr. Montes' final report with scorn, using such words as "cover-up," "manipulation" and "scandal."

Even Coloso's replacement as the PRI's presidential contender, his former campaign manager Ernesto Zedillo, announced Wednesday that the PRI would name a commission of experts to pursue its own inquiry.

But that sounds similar to a "Commission of Citizens" named by President Carlos Salinas that was made up of non-partisans such as journalists and lawyers.

The panel spectacularly dissolved itself shortly after it was formed, complaining bitterly that it had not been given access to information from the official inquiry and could not do its job.

A legislative commission

was then created, but it was later quietly disbanded without any official release of information concerning what it had done.

Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, the conservative National Action Party's presidential candidate for the August 21 vote, has described Mr. Montes' report as "harmful to public opinion."

And the press has been running stories or other tragedies for which official and government explanations are widely disbelieved.

There was the killing of Guadalajara archbishop Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas, who authorities say was shot to death during a confrontation between rival drug gangs in May 1993; the assassination of journalist Manuel Buendia in 1984 and what has been described as an "erroneous" shootout between the army and judicial police in November 1991 in the state of Veracruz that left seven dead.

The drug traffickers they were pursuing managed to escape.

Multiple cultures, pluralist development

By Yoro K. Fall

THE INCREASINGLY acute conflicts afflicting Africa, coupled with recent (global?) changes that the continent is generally forced to submit to, impose a new look at the link between culture and development there.

African societies have integrated a good many "modern" ideas and practices into their daily existence, their aspirations, their vision of the world and even into their languages. This reflects both the power of the dominant models of development and the diversity of the institutions that promote them, as much as the intrinsic openness of African societies to external influences. The desire for modernity is clearly manifest at state level, within national and international organisations, citizens associations and collective institutions, and at all levels of society.

This is why the most successful development experiences are characterised by a conjunction of external prompting and internal momentum. Private, public or family-run enterprises, the popular savings and credit systems known as "rotines", and even the more elaborate forms of industrial activity, for example, are strongly marked by cultural practices that ensure an equitable distribution of goods produced. The obligatory solidarity, community conscience and even the weight of kinship makes itself felt not only among the working classes of big cities, but also amongst the managerial sector.

Through recruitment procedures, the management of goods as well as human resources, in arbitration and the solutions reached to industrial disputes. Whence, even in the most successful development experiences, the perennials contradiction between the demands of competition and competitiveness, profitability or productivity that mark western societies and the traditional African tendencies of egalitarianism in the allocation of the means of production and the widespread distribution of consumer goods and profit.

Using the same logic, most of African conflicts can be explained by the cultural and social repercussions of ill-conceived development: by the extreme sensitivity to the inequalities between different social levels or ethnic groups that this engenders. This is further aggravated by the political manipulation of

these differences. These conflicts almost always reflect as much the ravages of exclusion and marginalisation as the disfunction of social equity.

In such a context, structural adjustment policies, and cuts in social investment only accentuate the ancient cleavages as well as the new ones, and multiply frustration. It could be considered that the exacerbation of political and social struggles in Africa today is an expression of the antagonism between the constraints imposed by the inequality of economic relations and the aspiration to develop in the broadest sense of the word.

This aspiration is part of African tradition, and is particularly intense among the new cultural and social forces — women and youth, who make up the vast majority of the population. At the same time it generates a dynamic from which no sector of the society is spared. However, the continent is not one. The countries of black Africa are characterised by the cultural diversity and therefore the diversity of their traditions. Social diversity, cultural diversity: these two factors are the crux of any discussion on the perspectives for the Africa of the 21st century. This is at a time when African societies are confronted by the challenges of social justice, rational management of the environment and the balance that must be struck between demographic growth and production.

It would seem that now and in the future development, like culture, must be both plural and pluralist. From now on, when speaking of Africa, it would be wiser to talk of cultures and styles of development, with each society creating its own path according to its own rapport between cultural and development.

This alternative approach, which treats culture with equal dignity, both conserves and enriches human heritage by offering to all the means to participate in cultural production and to express their capacity for creation and progress.

Without doubt, we run the risk of losing the comfort and the mental habits of uniformity.

The writer is a Senegalese historian and member of the World Commission on Culture and Development. This article is reprinted from the magazine UNESCO Sources.

Economy drive — Kuwait-style

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis, who enjoy one of the world's most generous state welfare systems, will no longer be allowed the luxury of leaving their air conditioners going while on holiday abroad and expecting the state to pay the bills.

So said Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan in outlining plans to introduce charges for state services that are now free or heavily subsidised in the oil-producing emirate.

Sheikh Rodhan told Al-Sayassah newspaper Saturday he would announce in

October a list of state services to curb the budget deficit. "I cannot imagine how a family could travel abroad leaving its air conditioning devices working in the house to preserve the plants... those families ought to shoulder the expensive price for that," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Excessive use of electricity, which is subsidised will have to be paid for.

Moreover, Kuwaitis can no longer expect guaranteed state jobs.

"The state, no matter how large its financial capacities and regardless of its financial

situation, cannot absorb all of the national labour," Sheikh Rodhan said.

Telephone charges are also expected to go up for households with more than one telephone line.

It was not immediately clear if the plan included introduction of charges for health services, presently free of charge to all Kuwaitis and Gulf Arabs.

Sheikh Rodhan said low-income families would not be affected by the changes.

A state economic committee said recently the budget deficit would grow by almost

50 per cent by the year 2000 unless the state subsidies system was reformed.

The budget proposed for the 1994/95 fiscal year from July 1 would produce a deficit of 1.8 billion dinars (\$6.2 billion) compared to a projected deficit in 1993/94 of 1.22 billion (\$4.1 billion).

Sheikh Rodhan told parliament last week that among other proposals being studied was imposition of income tax.

Gulf war-related expenses, including repair of oilfields cost Kuwait more than \$30 billion.

Rays of growth shine on European vacationers

PARIS (AFP) — Europeans will return from summer holidays in a month's time to find that rays of strong economic growth have risen over their three main economies, in Germany, Britain and France, according to the latest figures.

Britain is expecting growth this year of about 2.75 per cent, France 2.0 per cent and Germany more than 1.5 per cent, statistics have showed.

The green shoots of recovery have long been announced, but yet to show in Britain and France, although in Germany they have burst through with astonishing speed.

The main unknown quantity, and threat to continuation of strong growth in activity, is the future of long-term interest rates.

Each country, too, has its own particular weakness. In Germany it is the high cost of production and the strength of the mark.

In Britain the threat in past recoveries has come from a propensity to import for consumption, resulting in a "boom and bust" cycle.

In France unemployment is high, and Prime Minister Balladur warned that public deficits must be reduced to avert an increase in interest rates.

In Britain official figures showed that the economy had grown by 0.9 per cent in the second quarter from the figure for the first quarter in the strongest quarterly performance on record.

It had also grown by 3.3 per cent from the figure for the quarter of last year, exceeding a growth rate of 3.0 per cent for the first time since the first quarter of 1989.

The government recently increased its figure for expected growth this year to 2.75 per cent from 2.5 per cent forecast initially.

At the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce economist David Coleman said that the target was now realistic.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke commented that he wanted to prevent the economy from falling again into a cycle of "boom and bust."

In the last 12 months industrial output had risen by 4.5 per cent, retail sales had risen by 4.0 per cent and exports by 9.0 per cent while the number of people without work had fallen by 270,000, he said.

Official figures published in France showed that French manufactured output had increased by 2.2 per cent in May from the figure in April.

The total amount of output has not yet recovered to the amount before the recession

India announces stern steps to reform loss-making state firms

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday announced stern steps to reform loss-making state firms, telling them to employ fewer workers and modernise their technologies, officials said.

They quoted him as telling chief executives of state companies as saying the government would cut budgetary support to them.

Mr. Rao told them not to rely on "spoon-feeding" two weeks after he told a Congress Party rally state-run companies would have to perform or close.

Labour Minister Purno Sangma told the meeting that wage rises would be possible only if the number of workers shrank. "Wage revision should not impact in terms of increased unit cost of labour," he said, adding the government would not yield.

The entire wage structure has to be linked to productivity.

Public sector reforms are considered a tough political

challenge for Mr. Rao, who launched a radical economic reform programme in 1991. Surplus labour is a major issue in the companies, which have highly-organised labour unions.

Pranab Mukherjee, head of the government's Planning Commission, said state companies would have to fend for themselves by raising more funds from the market.

"A substantial portion of disinvestment should be reinvested in modernisation," he said. "If reform has one message, it is improvement of efficiency down the line."

The government has begun selling off minority stakes in some state-run companies as part of a partial privatisation programme.

Some 104 of India's 237 state companies lost 40 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion) in the 1992/93 (April-March) financial year.

Cumulative investments of 1,400 billion rupees (\$44 billion) yielded a post-tax profit of just 34 billion rupees (\$1

billion) in 1992/93.

The chief executives wanted more autonomy for managers and less bureaucratic interference, which they said was necessary to make state companies perform better.

"Once capital outlays are approved for an enterprise, the raising of money from domestic resources could be left to these enterprises within the framework of the companies' act," said Rajinder Singh, chairman of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Mr. Singh accepted closure of unviable companies as inevitable. "The loss-making public sector enterprises will face closure if no feasible restructuring scheme to make it viable is devised," he said.

S.K. Chowdhury, chief of Coal India Limited, said state companies must be allowed to hire labour on contract, which is not allowed at present. He wanted wages to be linked to the performance of each company.

French aid to Africa to favour growth, jobs

ABIDJAN (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Friday that his country's aid to west and central Africa would go in future to projects to create jobs and ensure long term growth.

"The normal role of donors is not to subsidise state budgets. The crisis had led us in this unfortunate direction. I would like French aid in future to priorities financing of projects that ensure long term growth and create jobs," he said in a speech to Ivorian business leaders.

The 13 west and central African members of the CFA franc zone devalued their currency by 50 per cent on Jan. 12, sending shockwaves through countries accustomed to the same parity since 1948.

For years, France stepped in to pay salaries of striking civil servants in countries whose economies were paralysed by the high value of the CFA franc, or came up with World Bank arrears at the last minute to save them from default.

Paris first warned CFA zone countries last September it would no longer prop

them up financially unless they signed accords with the International Monetary Fund and started reforming their economies.

Mr. Balladur said CFA countries must move away from dependence on aid and work to encourage private sector investment and greater integration with each other. "Beyond this effort of economic recovery, you must also continue towards regional integration and the search for private investment," he said. "Much remains to be done but I am confident in the economic future of the franc zone countries."

Mr. Balladur said the French development bank, the Caisse Franchise de Developpement, would make available an extra 1.5 billion French francs (\$276 million) in 1995 for investment financing.

Mr. Balladur promised French support to guarantee regional financing to put to work some of the CFA that have flooded back into the region's banks since devaluation.

The west and central Africa CFA regions have pledged to work towards greater integration of their diverse economies into two blocs.

Filipino investments abroad surge 864%

MANILA (AFP) — Investments by Filipinos in other countries rose by 864 per cent in 1993 due to the liberalisation of foreign exchange regulations, the Philippine Central Bank statistics office has said.

Outward investments from the Philippines, both in stock portfolios and in capital, amounted to \$1.167 billion in 1993 compared to \$121 million in 1992, the Central Bank said.

This was attributed to the government's decision in September, 1992, to allow Filipinos to invest as much as \$1 million overseas without central bank approval.

Portfolio investments abroad reached \$1.061 billion while capital investments reached \$106 million in 1993 compared to \$115 million in portfolio and \$16 million in capital investments abroad in 1992.

The bulk of Filipino investment overseas went to the United States which received \$667 million in portfolio investments and \$6.19 million in capital investments.

In contrast, foreign investments in the Philippines amounted to \$2.59 billion in 1993, of which \$2.257 billion

went into portfolio investments and \$334 million went into capital investments.

The United States was the main source of this capital, bringing in \$1.49 billion.

Meanwhile, Philippine export earnings for the first five months of 1994 climbed 16.1 per cent on a yearly basis to \$4.96 billion despite the stronger peso.

Export receipts for the month of May likewise rose 16.1 per cent over the same period in 1993 to \$150.35 million and exceeded the previous month's level by 13.1 per cent.

The National Statistics Office did not give figures for imports, but these have traditionally outstripped exports. The cumulative trade deficit stood at \$2.477 billion by end-April, up 28.8 per cent over the comparable period in 1993.

Electronics and components continued to be the country's leading products, accounting for 25.4 per cent of total exports in May. This was followed by apparel and clothing accessories with 19.4 per cent.

The United States remained the country's biggest market.

Ukraine's parliament puts ban on privatisation

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament-dominated parliament voted Friday to put an immediate ban on privatisation until the assembly agreed on the system.

"We have to put an end to national, criminal privatisation, which is being conducted in the interests of a tiny number of people," deputy Vladimir Marchenko, a member of the Socialist Party, told the chamber.

Deputies voted 180 to 62 for a resolution halting all types of privatisation until parliament reassembles in September and decides which properties must remain in the state realm.

The resolution said the State Property Fund, which oversees privatisation, must "stop the conclusion of agreements as to buying and

selling and leasing with buy-out."

It ordered the government to draw up a list of enterprises that were not to be privatised "because of their national significance" — to include companies in the transport, energy, and communication industries.

The 19-point resolution called for more state control over the privatisation process, including regular reports to parliament from the prosecutor-general, police and security service.

It included a vote of no-confidence in the head of the State Property Fund, and ordered the mechanism by which foreign investors participate in privatisation to be reviewed.

The decision was certain to complicate a pledge by Presi-

dent Leonid Kuchma to introduce market reforms to boost Ukraine's collapsing economy. Mr. Kuchma this week met International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdessus, who promised the IMF would work with the Ukrainian leadership on an economic reform programme that could open the way for \$4 billion in promised Western aid.

Ukraine's privatisation efforts have barely started more than 2-1/2 years after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, lagging far behind neighbouring Russia.

Reform-oriented deputies said the resolution was a blow to market reforms and would hurt vital industries which need domestic and foreign investment to survive. Industrial output in Ukraine

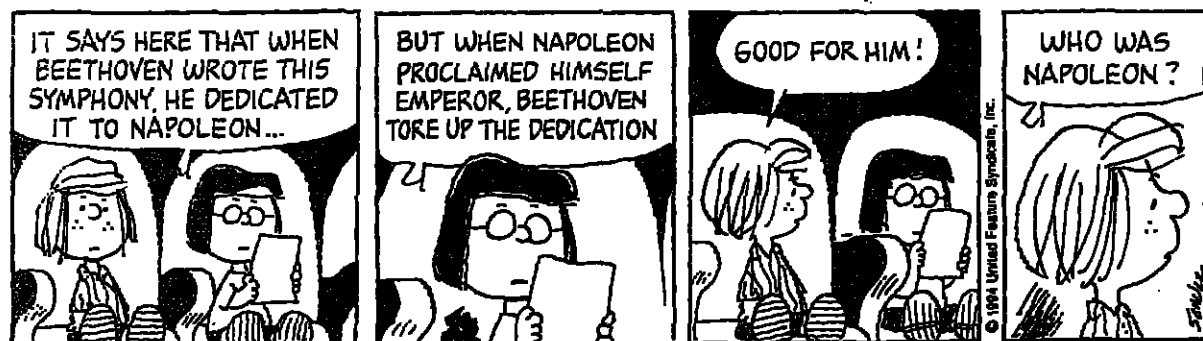
declined 36 per cent in the first half of 1994 compared to the same period last year.

"The socialists and communists in parliament don't have some great model in mind for privatisation. They simply want to restrict and stop this process," said Volodymyr Lanoviy, an economist and former deputy prime minister.

"This act has pushed Ukraine's international authority still lower. Most of the parliament wants Ukraine to be isolated behind a fence, to create a communist heaven," he added.

But parliament chairman Oleksander Moroz, a socialist, said the resolution did not mean the end of privatisation, simply a means to inject some order into an unclear system.

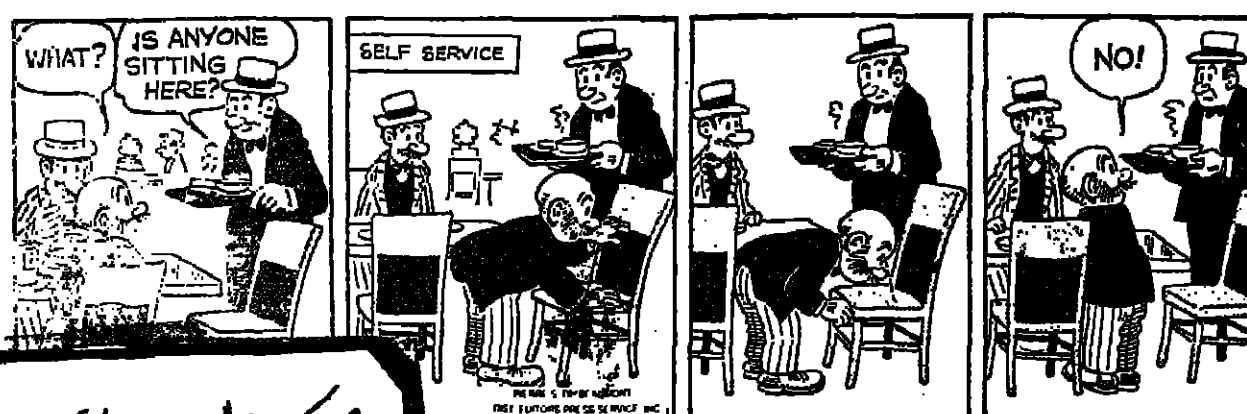
Peanuts



Andy Capp



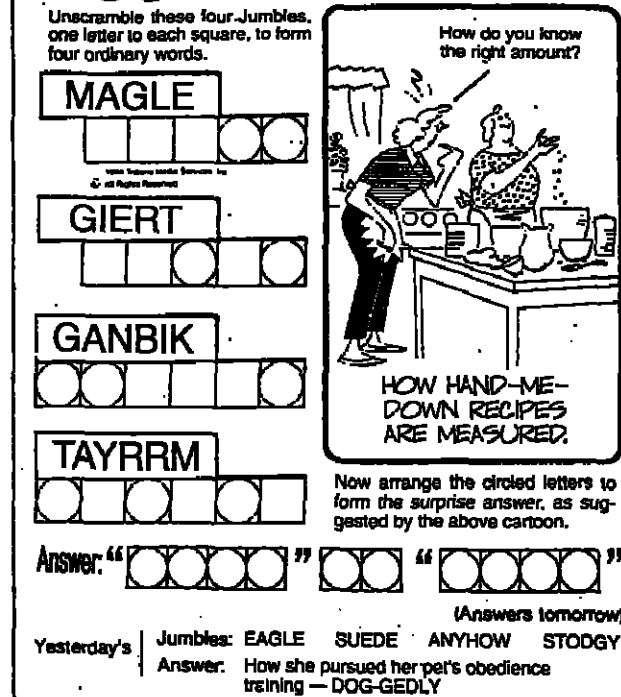
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Iran 'ready' to cooperate against terrorism

(Continued from page 1)

countries, including the United States, Britain and France.

Tehran blamed the Mujahedeen for a bomb attack at a shrine in Mashhad, eastern Iran, that killed 26 worshippers on June 25. The group has denied the charges.

Friday's Security Council statement, read by Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan, expressed condolences to the victims, their families and the governments of Argentina and Britain.

"The members of the Security Council demand an immediate end to all such terrorist attacks," the statement said.

"They stress the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to take full and effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism, which affect the international community as a whole," it said.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella accused Hizbollah, a Lebanese-based group, of the Buenos Aires bombing in a speech prepared for delivery before the Security Council.

But when he made the speech, Mr. Di Tella omitted that assertion, suggesting only that the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association may have been planned from outside the country.

"We are not going to accuse anyone without evidence," Mr. Di Tella said in calling for "urgent and concerted action" by the international community to combat terrorism and racism.

He denied that Argentina was carrying out "any anti-Islamic campaign."

"We are fully confident that in a little more time, with the valuable cooperation of the governments that share our values of liberty and democracy, we can find the masterminds of this aberrant act," he said.

He recalled that Buenos Aires was the scene of a similar bombing March 17, 1992 that destroyed the Israeli embassy and killed 30 people.

Mr. Di Tella proposed that

the Security Council form a mechanism for international action so that perpetrators of such bombings are not able to use diplomatic immunity to go free.

Sources close to the investigation in Buenos Aires linked Iranian diplomats to the bombing, an allegation denied by the Iranian embassy.

Argentina has recalled its ambassador to Tehran and has twice summoned the Iranian ambassador to Buenos Aires to the foreign ministry for talks.

A news agency said an Argentine man was taken into custody Friday in connection with the bombing.

The government is now holding five people in the case, but none have been arrested or charged, with a crime.

The man was identified as Ariel Nitzchner, 28, owner of an auto repair shop outside Buenos Aires, the Diarios Y Noticias news agency said.

Police suspect the Renault traffic minivan used in the attack was loaded with explosives at the shop, the report said.

Before Friday's detention, federal police chief Adrian Pelacchi said that three Argentine men were being detained in connection with the sale and purchase of the minivan. An Iranian man was taken into custody for questioning Wednesday.

Information possibly implicating Nitzchner was obtained from one of the other suspects, identified in news reports as Carlos Alberto Tellerin, 28. Police source say Tellerin bought the minivan, Diarios Y Noticias reported.

Seven other people have been detained and released, including an Iranian woman taken into custody Tuesday night at Ezeiza international airport outside Buenos Aires and freed Thursday.

The Financial Times meanwhile revealed Saturday British police and the royal household were warned at the end of 1993 that the street used in a massive car bomb attack on the Israeli embassy Tuesday was a prime target.

China halts share issues, yet cites a rosy future

BEIJING (R) — Desperate

to stop a freefall on the Shanghai bourse, China's stocks halted all share issues this year but also began a "good news" drive to keep foreigners from taking their money and running.

China Securities Regulatory Commission Chairman Li Hongru issued the go-slow edict late Friday, the official People's Daily and other major Chinese-language papers reported.

Li's decree suspends all share issues scheduled for 1994 as well as those already delayed from 1993, so as not to further undermine the share prices on China's embattled stock markets.

The suspension, applying to both experimental markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen, even casts doubt on 1995 listings.

"The scheduling of new share issues and listings next year must also be set in line with market conditions,"

People's Daily said.

The decree aims to ease the anger of investors in Shanghai, where the index of Chinese-held class-A shares has fallen by five per cent and sometimes even 10 per cent a day in recent weeks.

The index dived another 2.19 per cent on Friday to a record low close of 328.84 points, only slightly better than the all-time intra-day low of 321.23 set in the morning.

It has crashed a staggering 80 per cent since peaking at 1,640.71 points on Feb. 16, 1993.

Yet in a Jekyll-and-Hyde twist reflecting fears of a worse market nightmare, the China Daily, published by the People's Daily in English and aimed chiefly at foreigners, contained no mention of the suspension of new shares.

Instead, it depicted Mr. Liu as waxing bullish about prospects for the share market experiments he oversees.

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Berger takes pole as Ferrari fill front row at German GP

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (R) — Gerhard Berger claimed Ferrari's first pole position for nearly four years Saturday when he outpaced all his rivals in final qualifying for Sunday's German Grand Prix.

Berger, who pushed his car to the limit on the fast Hockenheim ring circuit, clocked a fastest time of one minute 43.582 seconds to secure the prime grid position for the 45-lap race.

It was the Austrian's first pole since the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka in 1991, when he was with McLaren, and the first for

any Ferrari driver since the Portuguese Grand Prix in September 1990.

To cap a perfect day for the revitalized Italian team, Frenchman Jean Alesi claimed second place on the grid in the second Ferrari.

It was also the first all-Ferrari front row since that day at Estoril when Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost were their drivers.

Damon Hill, fastest Friday and hoping for his third successive pole, finished third in his Williams, ahead of local hero Michael Schumacher who failed to improve on fourth place in his Benetton. Berger's time was nearly

five seconds slower than Prost's peacocking effort at Hockenheim a year ago following the introduction of the latest set of safety regulations which require the cars to have a stepped-bottom by a 10mm piece of wood.

Schumacher, driving under protest at the two-race ban imposed by the FIA Tuesday, made a huge but abortive effort to give the vast crowd the result they had hoped for.

But with a Ford V8 engine in his Benetton, Schumacher was unable to compete on even terms with the vastly more powerful V12s of the Ferraris and the V10 of Hill's Renault-powered Williams.

Anti-gay Cob county dropped from Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Olympic organizers Friday said they will not stage preliminary volleyball competition for the 1996 summer games in an Atlanta suburb renowned for its condemnation of homosexuals.

Up to now, competition was set for a convention centre in Cobb County, a staunchly conservative community located just north of Atlanta, where government leaders have passed a resolution saying the gay lifestyle undermines family values.

The resolution, adopted by the Cobb County commission a year ago, triggered a storm of protest from gay activists who have spent months lobbying the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) to drop the site from its list of venues.

The controversy peaked this week when Cobb County commission chairman Bill Byrne said he was fed up with ACOG and wanted the organising group's reservations for volleyball practice in 1995 opened to others interested in renting the convention hall.

ACOG said it will replace the Cobb County venue with the University of Georgia's coliseum in Athens, Georgia, about 60 miles (100 km) east of Atlanta.

Agassi beats Bruguera at Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Eighth seed Andre Agassi was too good for top-seeded Spaniard Sergi Bruguera in a hard-fought quarterfinal match at the \$1.72 million Canadian Open late Friday, coming away with a 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-1 victory.

"That's bigtime tennis," said the 20th-ranked Agassi of the one hour, 49 minute match. "Neither one of us could really hope to play better than that."

Fourth-seeded Jim Courier also looked fierce breezing past Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 6-2, 6-2, in another quarterfinal.

The semifinal pairings pit Agassi against sixth-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and Courier against unseeded Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

Ferreira beat 14th-seeded Malivai Washington of the United States 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in one quarterfinal. Stoltenberg upset 15th-seeded American Richey Reneberg 6-4, 6-2 in the other.

Agassi eventually overpowered the fourth-ranked Bruguera in a match where both players pounded the ball ferociously.

"It was a great match and we both played as hard as possible," Bruguera said. "We put each other under a lot of pressure."

The match turned decisively in Agassi's favour after Bruguera, down 2-0 in the final set, had the American on the ropes at 0-40 in the third game. But Agassi won the next five points to save the serve and lead 3-0, then captured three of the last four games.

"If I'm hitting the ball that good I let my opponent worry about me," Agassi said. "Mentally, I think he got a little discouraged after that third game."

Despite his quarterfinal loss, Bruguera will move to a career-high ranking of number three Monday.

In all three sets Agassi took an early lead.

He led Bruguera 4-2 in the first set before the Spaniard broke even to 4-4. At 30-40 in the tenth game, Bruguera captured the first set when he smashed a vicious forehand right down the line.

Agassi had a 5-3 lead in the second set but Bruguera pulled even to force a tie-breaker.

At 2-2 in the tie-breaker, Agassi won the final five points to move the match into a final set. Bruguera double faulted on the last point of the tie-breaker.

Agassi now leads Bruguera 2-1 in career meetings.

The 12th-ranked Courier, who will move back into the top 10 Monday, played a tight tennis Friday. He now has a 2-0 winning record over the 49th-ranked Enqvist.

"Your game plan every match is to try and get up early and stay on top," Courier said. "Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Today was a good day for that."

Courier lost only nine points in his eight service games, winning 24 of 27 first-service points in the match.

He never offered Enqvist a chance to break his serve in the 56-minute match.

The American was clearly dominant, racking in 25 outright winners to Enqvist's paltry seven in the match.

Enqvist held serve four times in the match — in the third and fifth games of the first set and the first and fifth games of the second set.



Andre Agassi

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GOODWILL GAMES

Cuba wins 6 boxing gold medals

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Cuba dominated boxing at the Goodwill Games with 11 of 12 gold medals, leaving the other gold Saturday for American Benjamin McDowell.

Cuba won six golds to five for Russia, but the Russians won three of five gold-medal bouts against the Cubans, seeming to signal the return of Russia as a boxing power.

"We had our boxers very well prepared for this event," said Russian Boxing Federation President Vladimir Ivanchenko. "As you know things are very difficult now, but step-by-step we're showing we stay even with the best in the world. That is Cuba."

Cuba's highly successful

coach Alcides Sagarrá showed no disappointment at his team's few setbacks.

"We're just now beginning to prepare ourselves for the world championships next year," Sagarrá said. "Even Cuban fighters lose fights at times."

The 1995 world championships are in Berlin next May.

Two Cuban Olympic gold-medal winners lost in the two days of Goodwill finals. Joel Casamayor at 57 kilos (125 pounds) lost a 15-8 decision against Russian world bronze medalist Ramzi Palyani.

Maybe I can realistically think about the Olympics now, but first I want a vacation. I don't want to get burned out on boxing.

gold-medallist, 26-year-old heavyweight Felix Savon, won his gold with the only punch he threw in his bout Friday, knocking out Russian Sergei Machalov in the first round.

The United States was saved from a shutout by McDowell, a 24-year-old U.S. army enlisted man from Fort Bragg, N.C., who won a 9-7 decision at 81 kilos (178 pounds) over Cuban Dibs-vany Vega.

"This is my biggest international win," McDowell said. "I was the underdog and I like being the underdog. Maybe I can realistically think about the Olympics now, but first I want a vacation. I don't want to get burned out on boxing."

Spurs promise more new players after signing Klinsmann

LONDON (R) — Tottenham are still looking to sign more new players following their spectacular swoop for World Cup star Jürgen Klinsmann of Germany and the Dumitrescu of Romania.

Klinsmann, rated one of the best strikers in the world over the last eight years, scored five goals in the World Cup finals — and for Tottenham to capture his signature from Monaco for just £2.0 million (£3.06 million) on a two-year contract represents a staggering coup for chairman Alan Sugar and his manager Ossie Ardiles.

The news of Klinsmann's arrival broke just 48 hours after Spurs signed Dumitrescu from Steaua Bucharest for \$2.6 million (£3.97 million).

And Ardiles promised there would be at least one more top foreign player joining Spurs before the start of the season although he seems to have lost out in his bid to tempt the Brazilian World Cup defender Marcio Santos from Bordeaux to White Hart Lane. The centre-back is now "80 per cent certain" to join Fiorentina, according to his father.

Romania sweeper Gheorghe Popescu has also reportedly turned down Spurs, who had offered his club PSV Eindhoven £2.5 million

(£3.82 million). But Ardiles is still hopeful of signing Brazilian striker Muller for \$1.4 million (£2.14 million) from world club champions Sao Paulo.

The Tottenham boss pledged: "I am hoping to bring another player to the club. I'm practically sure that, before the season begins, there will be another foreign player here."

Dumitrescu, who arrived in London for his medical Friday was eagerly anticipating the challenge of English soccer.

"The fact that we have lost six points should mobilize us as a team," said the 26-year-old. "It is only two games. I believe in the value of teamwork. Together we will overcome that handicap."

"I had offers from Bari, Padova and Monaco, and last night I had a telephone call from Atletico Madrid. But I chose Tottenham because I have a lot of respect for the club, they are a symbol of English football."

The dramatic signing of Klinsmann, one of the biggest world names to come to English football since the arrival at Spurs of Ardiles himself in 1978, has overshadowed all the rest of the wheeling and dealing and was completed in cloak and dagger fashion by club chairman Sugar on his yacht off Monte Carlo.

Klinsmann, 30, was tempted to Spurs despite offers from Sampdoria and two Spanish clubs. He arrives in London Monday for the medical which will complete the formalities of the transfer from Monaco.

The blond German, a World Cup winner in 1990 who has appeared 62 times for his country, scoring 24 goals, said "at first I was thinking of going back to Italy, then I was thinking more and more about Tottenham."

"They are a very prestigious club with a lot of tradition. It is a big challenge for me to play in the English premier league and I am looking forward to it."

Ardiles, who took no part in the actual negotiations, said, "Jürgen is a big, big signing. He is one of the best players in the world."

"Germany as a team did not have good World Cup, but Jürgen did. His signing shows the level of commitment we have here to return this club to the top. It shows our ambition."

"It is looking very exciting for us, especially up front. Going forward we are certainly going to be very, very strong."

The arrival of attacking midfielder Dumitrescu and striker Klinsmann at Spurs almost certainly means that some of the present squad will be moving on.

Vinny Samways looks certain to leave and is wanted by Everton, although they are baulking at Tottenham's asking price of £2.8 million



Jürgen Klinsmann

(£4.28 million).

In the space of three days, Ardiles and Sugar have cleared much of the gloom that surrounded White Hart Lane this summer after the FA punished the club for irregular payments to players by banning them from the FA Cup next season and making them start 1994-95 with a

six-point deficit.

Klinsmann began his career with Stuttgarter Kickers, then moved to VfB Stuttgart, and in 1989 went to Italy and Inter Milan in a £1.3 million (£2.0 million) deal. He claimed a UEFA Cup winners medal with Inter in 1991 then had a brief spell with Real Madrid the year after before joining Monaco.

Lang's goal upsets Monaco

PARIS (AFP) — Didier Lang's goal shocked French title challengers Monaco in their own stadium Friday as Metz won 1-0.

Metz, who finished just 12th last season, earned their first three-point win in the French league with Lang's 22nd minute goal.

And it was at the expense of last season's European Cup semifinalists, who have signed striker Sonny Anderson and defender Eric Di Meo from Marseille.

Frank Dumas fouled Robert Pires outside the area, and Lang made no mistake from the free-kick to beat keeper Fabien Piveteau and upset Arsene Wenger's team.

In other matches, champions Paris Saint Germain drew 0-0 with Le Havre, fourth from bottom last season. Ten-man Strasbourg, boosted by the signings of Franck Sauzeau from Atalanta and Xavier Gravelaine from PSG, played out a 1-1 draw with Cup Winners' Cup hopefuls Auxerre.

Franck Sauzeau, playing his first match since his disappointing year with Atalanta, relegated from Italy's Serie A, opened the score for Strasbourg. From a Gravelaine corner, Sauzeau headed home from the far post a minute before half-time.

But Bernard Diomedé equalised a minute after the break with a powerful shot. Then, eight minutes before time, Strasbourg's Pascal Bailly was sent off, but the

Alsace side hung on for the draw.

Auxerre coach Guy Roux did well to grab a point considering seven players were missing: Franck Silvestre and Pascal Vahirua were suspended, and Bruno Martini, Moussa Saib, Christian Henne, Christophe Cocard, and Alain Goma were injured.

Nantes, coached by Jean-Claude Suaudeau, also drew 1-1 at home to Lyon with Patrice Loko scoring for Nantes and Florian Maurice equalising a minute later in the 54th minute.

And Sochaux beat Caen, despite their signing of Sweden's World Cup star Kennet Andersson, with two late goals for a 2-0 victory.

Andersson joined Caen in May after following Lille coach Pierre Mankowski, but just last week, Benfica offered the Normandy club three million dollars for Andersson — about four times the amount Caen paid Lille.

"It's all very clear," Andersson said. "I signed a three-year contract here, and I will stay at least till the end of the current season."

Andersson did not regret signing the Caen deal, though, after his goals for Sweden at the World Cup, he could have clinched a much better move.

He even scored against Brazil in a 1-1 draw in Group B. Only one of two teams to beat Brazilian keeper Taffarel in seven matches at the World Cup finals.

Jockey Piggott planning return

NEWMARKET (England) — Lester Piggott plans to return to the saddle as soon as he has recovered from his latest race riding fall.

As the racing world rallied to his defence to dismiss calls for his retirement, the 58-year-old jockey was recuperating at home Friday.

Piggott suffered concussion and bruising when the saddle slipped from his mount Coffee 'N Cream at Goodwood Thursday.

Family friend Anna Ludlow said: "He is fine. He got back today and there are no problems. He is bound by the seven-day rule for concussion to take a break but he will be looking to return to action as soon as he is allowed."

Piggott could be back on the racetrack as early as next Friday but will need to be examined first.

Inevitably some are calling for Piggott to slip back into retirement, as he did between 1985 and 1990, but an overwhelming number of his colleagues at Goodwood Friday back his decision to continue.

Richard Hannon, the trainer of Coffee 'N Cream, said: "He should carry on if that's what he wants to do and he still enjoys it. The fall was just one of those things but he probably doesn't bounce as well as he used to."

Jockeys association secretary Michael Caulfield said: "Certainly, he should not retire. He is a national treasure. Let's appreciate every moment of his career."

But Goodwood's clerk of the course Rod Fabricius believes retirement may not be too far away.

"Sooner or later in his own interests it would be best if he did consider retirement. But obviously the decision will not be easily made by him," he said.

"I think probably it should be taken out of his hands at some stage however brutal that may sound."

That's not to say his ability is wavering but Anno Domini will catch up with him eventually.

Jump jockey Mark Richards said: "I don't think there is anything left for him to prove now. He will never retrieve the heady days of his illustrious career now."

"I still feel he is brilliant but he doesn't have the touch of flare he used to. It is a shame to see someone so brilliant just become the norm."

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NBA's Magic sign Horace Grant

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — The Orlando Magic announced Friday that they have signed Horace Grant, making the free-agent power forward who won three NBA titles with superstar Michael Jordan a teammate of the league's brightest new marquee player, Shaquille O'Neal.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The 29-year-old Grant, who led the Bulls in rebounding the last six seasons, played on all three of the Bulls' championship teams from 1991-93 and has spent his entire seven-year career in Chicago.

"Hopefully, with my presence, we can go real far," said Grant, who made his first All-Star appearance this past season.

"We have a very young, talented team. The nucleus is great and it's exciting for me to be a part of that. I'm definitely up for the chal-

enge."

Earlier in the day, the Magic traded guard Scott Skiles to the Washington Bullets, apparently to free up Skiles' salary slot of \$2.1 million to help sign Grant.

"We have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to acquire a player of Horace Grant's calibre," Magic vice president of basketball operations/player personnel John Gabriel said.

"What he can contribute to this team from his experience and leadership qualities, his rebounding abilities, and his playoff experience are going to be invaluable to this team. We're extremely excited to have Horace as a part of our future."

The 6-foot-10, 235-pound Grant was selected by Chicago in the first round of the 1987 draft out of Clemson. He averaged 15.1 points and 11 rebounds in 70 games last season, while shooting 52 per-

Jordan offers a dream challenge

NEW YORK (AFP) — Michael Jordan offered a challenge to members of Dream Team II, saying his original 1992 Olympic championship squad could beat the latest collection of National Basketball Association (NBA) stars.



Michael Jordan

Jordan, who retired last year to begin a baseball career, told the New York Post that he would love to play in a charity game matching the first Dream Team against the latest group assembled to play at the world championships starting Thursday in Toronto.

Responding to comments by Dream Team II players that they would win such a showdown, Jordan said, "Those guys are on the right team, because they are definitely dreaming. Not only was Dream Team I better, but we could beat them right now."

Jordan said he could average 32 points a game after only a couple of weeks to prepare, but said pride prevents him from ever considering a return to the NBA.

The seven-times NBA scoring champion, who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight league crowns, ripped his former teammates for a lack of support and said his late father James wanted him to retire during his final season because "he felt my teammates didn't appreciate what I was doing for them."

"I had totally lost interest," Jordan said of his final season. "I knew I had to give it up."

"They had no idea how much pressure and grief I had to put up with off the court while carrying them on the court," Jordan said.

"Scottie (Pippen) found out the hard way what it's like to be under the microscope 24 hours a day. For the first half of the season he did great carrying the team. The second half, not so great."

Jordan said Pippen made a grave mistake by taking himself out of the final Bulls' playoff game when Toni Kukoc was set to take the final shot while Pippen would have been a

decoy.

"I don't think he will ever live that down," Jordan said.

Jordan said he found squabbles of his teammates petty.

"I covered their asses when they got tight at the end of games and I had to overcome fourth-quarter deficits all by myself," Jordan said. "It bothered my father a lot, just as it bothered me, to hear them bitching about not getting enough credit or not getting enough shots."

Jordan said media examining of his gambling and inaccurate links between gambling and his father's killing pushed him to retire.

Jordan is batting .188 for a minor-league baseball club.

Turkey seeks Colak's extradition

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey was seeking the extradition of soccer star Tanju Colak Saturday after he fled the country two days earlier just before a warrant for his arrest for car smuggling was issued.

The Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet quoted justice Minister Mehmet Mogulay Saturday saying officials had started legal proceedings for Colak's extradition from Macedonia.

However, Mogulay implied it may not be an easy process because Turkey did not have an extradition agreement with the newly-independent Macedonia.

Colak, the leading scorer in European soccer in the 1987-88 season, faces 22 months in prison and a fine of 772 million liras (\$24,000) for his involvement in the car smuggling.

"I am not sure if I will return to Turkey," Colak said earlier and added that he was waiting to have his sentence lifted by President Suleyman Demirel.

The said he should be forgiven just as the Argentinian government forgave soccer superstar Diego Maradona for drug offences.

The sentence effectively marks the end of Colak's career. As Turkish sports regulations forbid anyone sentenced for certain crimes, including smuggling, from playing professionally again.

Colak starred for the Istanbul team Galatasaray in the late 1980s and for Fenerbachce in the early 1990s. His career went into decline after legal and marital troubles and was fired from his first division club.

He was later transferred to Istanbulspor in the second division.

O.J. Simpson trial date changed to Sept. 19

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's date for trial on murder charges was changed late Friday to Sept. 19 when the judge presiding over the case realized he had made a mathematical error.

Superior court judge Lance Ito at first named Sept. 20, the 60th day following Simpson's arraignment last Friday, as the date for the start of the trial.

But he later changed it to Sept. 19, noting that under California's "speedy trial" law Simpson was entitled to be tried within 60 days of being arraigned.

Simpson has pleaded "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty" to the murders of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, a 25-year-old model.

The two were stabbed and slashed to death outside Nicole Simpson's Brentwood apartment on the night of June 12, at a time when Simpson says he was at home waiting for a limousine to take him to the airport.

During a preliminary hearing marked by its civility, in sharp contrast to the heated courtroom skirmishes of past hearings, the two sides agreed to meet informally to discuss exchanges of evidence rather than make repeated

court appearances.

Gerald Uelman, a member of Simpson's defence team, complained in court that police were not following up leads fast enough and that the defence was not being given enough information.

He said that in police documents handed to the defence team last week, "there was a report of an eyewitness who was in the alleyway behind Nicole Simpson's house who reports hearing someone leaving from the back gate and then two men arguing."

Uelman complained that the information was given in abbreviated form and did not include the witness's address or telephone number.

Deputy district attorney William Hodgman said the Los Angeles police department was making efforts to contact the witness and interview him.

Another defence attorney, Johnnie Cochran, said there was at least one other witness police interviewed some time ago, "who has given testimony or evidence that is totally inconsistent with the theory of a lone assailant and entirely inconsistent with the fact that Mr. Simpson is that assailant."

"To date, we have not received any report of that particular witness."

He added there were more witnesses "who have theories of multiple assailants of different ethnic backgrounds than Mr. Simpson that we think need to be pursued vigorously."

Hodgman assured the court that all leads and witnesses were being followed up.

Friday's hearing was on a defence motion asking for several specific items of information, including reports from hospitals in the area which may have treated someone for a dog bite wound on the night of the murders.

Nicole Simpson's large, white dog was found wandering loose following the slayings.

Responding to that request, Hodgman said the defence was trying to engage in a "fishing expedition."

"If they want to go fishing, I suggest they get their own pole and tackle box," he said.

He did agree, however, to turn over tapes from the district attorney's "hot line" containing tips from the public.

Uelman said the defence would turn its "hot-line" tips over to the prosecution, and the judge said he had also received telephone tips and letters which he would make available to both sides.

"Some are more interesting than others," he said, smiling.

In a rare moment of levity, laughter filled the courtroom several times when Ito noted that he had received many "non-party filings — individuals who have attempted

to join in this case (for) the defendant."

"They're welcome, your honour," lead defence attorney Robert Shapiro quipped.

Ito, with a deadpan expression and delivery, also announced that he had received a check for \$12 million as a filing fee.

"Did the check clear, your honour?" Cochran asked.

"I wouldn't be here if it did," Ito replied.

Practically the only person who did not laugh during the exchange was Simpson, who remained sombre.

Hours after Simpson's hearing, his friend, Al Cowlings, appeared before a municipal judge to hear prosecutors say they had not yet

decided whether to charge him with aiding and abetting the flight of a fugitive.

It was Cowlings who was at the wheel of the white Ford Bronco June 17 when police pursued the vehicle in a chase that was nationally broadcast. The chase ended when Cowlings drove the car back to Simpson's home, where both men were arrested.

California police, meanwhile, were looking for the thief who stole Simpson's Heisman Trophy and his college football jersey from their display case at the University of Southern California.

The Heisman Trophy is awarded annually to the best college football player in the United States.

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Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION		Sharhan-Mahmoud Hamideh — Hussein Fahmi in Women's market Arabic		CONCORD "1" Robin Hood Men in Tights CONCORD "2" GET AWAY		THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 Starting Aug. 15 the political play "SAHRA KANAUNIEH"	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PLACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days.	
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NEWS IN BRIEF

55 injured in violence over Nasrin

DHAKA (AP) — Radicals demanding stiffer blasphemy laws and death to a feminist writer clashed with police and the author's supporters, leaving 55 people injured, reports said Saturday. Newspapers said the violence broke out overnight as nearly 50,000 Muslims dispersed after marching through Dhaka streets Friday to call for the execution of Taslima Nasrin, whom they accuse of insulting Islam. The reports said 40 people were injured when Islamic activists threw crude home-made bombs and 15 others were hurt when police fired rubber bullets at the demonstrators near Dhaka's parliament building. Police made 16 arrests. A nationwide strike called by the opposition Awami League party and secular student groups halted traffic and closed businesses in Dhaka on Saturday. The stoppage was a protest against the alleged killing of six people by supporters of the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami party. The six died Tuesday in a clash between backers of fundamentalist leader Gholam Azam and secular students in the southern port city of Chittagong, Bangladesh, where the population is 90 per cent Muslim, is being increasingly polarized by such disputes. Ms. Nasrin, 31, went into hiding June 4 after a court ordered her arrest on charges of violating a 19th-century law against hurting religious sentiments. An Indian newspaper had quoted the writer as calling for a revision of the Koran. She says she was misquoted and had actually called for greater rights for women under Islam.

Two N. Korean defectors nabbed in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Two North Korean escapees from a Siberian logging camp were caught trying to cross the Russian border into China with the intention of heading to South Korea, the media reported here. The Russian army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Friday the two had escaped the Chegdomyn camp and were caught "recently" by Khabarovsk border guards. The two set off an alarm and were picked up after a five-hour chase. The paper did not say what became of the would-be defectors. South Korea earlier this year said it would accept defectors from the Siberian camps where thousands of North Koreans are employed, on "humanitarian" grounds, sparking allegations of kidnapping from North Korea. Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS news agency Saturday said customs in the far-eastern Vladivostok region had arrested a 52-year-old North Korean who was attempting to smuggle opium into the country.

Detectives among 4 killed in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Four people, including two detectives investigating a murder, died in a shootout at a house in Johannesburg's giant Soweto township early on Saturday, police said. A murder suspect and a bystander were also killed and a third policeman and a bystander were wounded in the shooting in Soweto's Orlando district, near the township home that President Nelson Mandela still owns. Police spokesman Hennie Oosthuizen said three officers were investigating the murder of a man whose throat was cut during the night. At least 330 South African policemen have been killed, mainly in the black townships, since the beginning of last year and about 1,000 have been wounded.

Maoist militants kill 16 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — A landmine planted by Maoist guerrillas killed 16 people on Saturday, most of them policemen, in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, the United News of India reported. It said several other people travelling in a police vehicle were injured in the explosion and that at least one was wounded by a bullet, indicating that militants had fired on survivors. The agency said the attack appeared to have been in revenge for the deaths of four militants in a gunbattle with police. Maoist militants, known in India as Naxalites after the town where their movement started in the 1960s, had distributed pamphlets in the area promising revenge. The landmine is a favorite Naxalite weapon against police. They have used them previously in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, where they are strongest, as well as in Madhya Pradesh.

Plutonium hidden in Switzerland

HAMBURG (AFP) — A German businessman on custody for possessing Russian plutonium which could be used to make nuclear weapons has offered to reveal another cache of the radioactive chemical hidden in Switzerland, the German weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday. Adolf Jaekle told the government he would reveal the exact whereabouts of the 60 grammes of plutonium in exchange for a relaxation of his conditions of detention, the magazine said in an extract of an article in the edition which goes on sale on Monday. Mr. Jaekle said that apart from the six grammes of Russian plutonium 239 seized at his home in Tengen-Wiech and the 60 grammes in Switzerland, he also knew of places in Germany and Austria where traffickers had hidden enriched uranium. He said he would only reveal details, names of suppliers and buyers once his demands were met. Police enquiries into the affair are following several leads to Saudi Arabia, Russia, Bulgaria and Asia and believe the plutonium seized at Mr. Jaekle's home came from a Russian nuclear bomb factory. Russian authorities are angry that the Germans have not supplied them with a sample of the plutonium which would enable them to ascertain its origin, Der Spiegel said.

Front line welcomes new South Africa

WINDHOEK (AFP) The front line states formally dissolved Saturday and welcomed a reformed South Africa into a new political and economic organisation. Nathan Shamuyarira, Zimbabwe's foreign minister, said the front-line states would become the political and security wing of the South African Development Community, a regional group South Africa was to join in August. "The work of the front line states is now complete," Mr. Shamuyarira said after a meeting of southern African foreign ministers, the front-line states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe — helped lead international opposition to white minority rule in South Africa. A black-led government took over South Africa after the country's first all-race elections were held in April. South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo attended Saturday's meeting in Windhoek.

Israeli coach says he was detained

TEL AVIV (AP) — A leading Israeli soccer coach said Saturday that he and two colleagues were detained by Dutch police in connection with the recent bombings of Jewish targets in London. "We didn't know if to laugh or to cry," Avraham Grant, coach of cupwinner Maccabi Tel Aviv, told army radio after four hours in custody at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. Mr. Grant said he and team officials Shimon Korek and Avraham Lev were seized upon arrival Friday. Despite protests that they were Israeli, he said, they were searched and marched across the terminal to separate tiny detention rooms. "I gave them my business card and asked, 'let us make a phone call, we're pretty famous in Israel,' but nothing. It was humiliating," Mr. Grant said. Dutch military police spokesman Alek de Jong said three men and a woman from KLM's flight KL120 from London were detained for a few hours Friday afternoon, but refused to disclose identities. Another passenger thought he recognised them from composite drawings of suspects made by British police, Mr. De Jong said. The Israelis were en route from Iceland to summer training camp in Germany and had only changed planes in London, Mr. Grant said. Eventually an officer returned their passports and freed them with apologies Mr. Grant said, adding he "will not let this slide."

N. Korean premier seen unhurt by defection

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San attended mourning rites for an old colleague, suggesting he was unhurt by the recent defection to South Korea of a man claiming to be his son-in-law.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo on Saturday, listed Mr. Kang in second place behind Communist Party Standing Committee kinsman O Jin-U among the mourners for Deputy Prime Minister Kang Hui-Won, who died this week.

The rites took place on Friday, KCNA said. Kang Hui-Won's funeral was set for Saturday.

Kim Jong-Il, son of the late President Kim Il-Sung who died on July 8 and his father's presumed successor, did not attend.

Premier Kang's position in the ruling hierarchy was unchanged from that revealed in the make-up of Kim Il-Sung's funeral committee.

The Tokyo-based Korea-

watch agency Radiopress said Premier Kang's involvement in this weekend's funeral rites for Kang Hui-Won indicated he was politically secure despite the defection of Kang Myong-Do, revealed on Wednesday.

The defector, who said he was Premier Kang's son-in-law, told a news conference in Seoul that his country had developed five nuclear warheads, contradicting North Korea's insistence it has no nuclear arms programme.

Pyeongyang said Kang Myong-Do is unrelated to Prime Minister Kang Song-San, and called him a criminal who embezzled public funds and then fled to the South to avoid punishment.

The U.S. government, which is spearheading international efforts to discover the truth about Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, has said it is seeking more information from South Korea on the defector's reliability.

Kang Hui-Won was the second high-ranking North Korean official to die since the July 8 death of the Stalin-

ist state's founder.

Official media reported on Thursday the death of General Jo Myong-Son, a prominent military and party figure who last served as vice-minister at the key public security ministry.

While South Korea officials seem convinced of the defector's identity, officials have cast doubt on the reliability of his information, which he says he got through conversations with the intelligence chief responsible for Yongbyon, the country's main nuclear complex.

The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, which has been monitoring North Korea's nuclear programme, said Friday the claim to five warheads was doubtful.

"Based on information currently available to (the IAEA), the statement made by the defector is not judged to be plausible," the agency said in a statement.

Also on Friday, South Korea moved to dismiss the assertion as "transitory intelligence."

"We reaffirm that the defector's testimony has not been supported by solid proof," said Kim Hyong-Ki, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Vice-Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo and other senior South Korean officials held consultations Friday and decided that the latest assertion won't affect Seoul's policy towards North Korea.

South Korean government prosecutors have ordered a nationwide police roundup of 120 student leaders suspected of sympathising with North Korea.

The dragnet was a part of an ongoing crackdown since the July 8 death of Kim Il-Sung on students and other activists suspected of being pro-North Korea.

South Korea's strict national security law prohibits sympathy with North Korean ideology, but dissidents have demanded that the government send condolences to the rival North.

The government has refused, and has threatened to severely punish any who do.

Students have hung banners and passed out pamphlets eulogising the late Kim as a great leader who led Korea out of Japanese colonialism. Some of the wanted students are suspected of having held ancestral worship rites to pay their respects to Kim.

Most South Koreans blame Kim for having started the 1950-53 Korean war, and many have questioned the students' demands for condolences.

Conservatives have accused the student groups of being infiltrated by North Korean spies.

Hanyang University in Seoul kicked out a student organisation accused of being pro-North Korea from its campus earlier this week.

North Korea, meanwhile, slammed South Korea for its crackdown.

"The anti-North confrontation campaign is a desperate effort — of those who are driven to a tight corner," KCNA said Friday, quoting an editorial in the ruling party's Rodong Shinmun.

COLUMN

No room at dinner table for ex-president

NICOSIA (R) — Former Cyprus President George Vassiliou turned out for an official dinner with visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — only to find that there was no seat for him. A furious Vassiliou, who left the reception without saying goodbye to the holiday island's distinguished guest, demanded a public apology Friday from President Glafcos Clerides, the man who defeated him in a presidential election last year. "What is really provocative is that I was invited to the official reception but not the dinner," Mr. Vassiliou told Reuters on the morning after. "I was talking to Mr. Peres and then walked towards the official dinner to find out that there was no seat reserved for me," he said. "When I turned around and told the (Cypriot) Foreign Minister (Alecis Michaelides) that I couldn't see my name anywhere, he said: 'You can't see it because you are not invited.'"

Mr. Vassiliou, who described the snub as a blunt violation of the country's protocol said he would meet Mr. Peres Saturday in the coastal resort town of Paphos and would explain why he left without saying goodnight to him. "What happened was really a disgrace. I demand a public apology from President Clerides," Mr. Vassiliou said. Mr. Peres arrived in Cyprus Thursday for a three-day official visit to strengthen ties between the Mediterranean neighbours.

Images of caravan trails released in ancient lost city

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Radar images captured in space of caravan trails near the lost city of Ubar on the Arabian peninsula have been released by scientists. The trails are buried under the sand in Oman said Mary Hardin, a spokeswoman for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which collected the radar images from the U.S. space shuttle programme. The images taken during an April shuttle mission gives scientists better data and a higher resolution image than they have ever had before. Ms. Hardin said. The ancient city was discovered in 1992 with the aid of remote sensing data. Archaeologists believe Ubar existed from about 2800 B.C. to about 300 A.D. It was a remote desert outpost where caravans were assembled for the transport of frankincense across the desert. The image-collecting mission is part of an ongoing programme to get pictures from hundreds of sites around the Earth. Ms. Hardin said. "By imaging the Earth with radar, we are able to study how the Earth is changing," she said. Other images recorded during the mission include a crater on the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico caused by an asteroid. The asteroid reportedly hit 65 million years ago and wiped out the dinosaurs, scientists said. Another image was a volcano in Colombia that is normally under heavy cloud cover, making it hard to study. The radar equipment will be taken back into space on Aug. 18 for a 10-day trip on the space shuttle.

Indian woman sentenced to death for bride burning

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian woman has been sentenced to death for burning her daughter-in-law alive because of an insufficient dowry, newspapers reported Saturday. "The person who perpetrates a barbaric crime without any human consideration must be given the extreme penalty," the newspapers quoted Judge Dinesh Dayal as saying when he sentenced the woman. The woman, named as Chandravati, was accused of killing her 20-year-old daughter-in-law by pouring kerosene over her and setting her alight in Delhi six years ago. Ms. Chandravati claimed the daughter-in-law died in an accident in the kitchen, where, as in many Indian homes, cooking was done on kerosene stoves. Scores of such deaths are reported each year in India, where demanding dowries is officially illegal but widely practised.

U.S. to give 50 F-16 warplanes to Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Department of Defence released the following memorandum on Friday:

The U.S. Air Force will deliver the first of 50 F-16A/B aircraft to the government of Israel Monday, August 1, 1994, at Hatzor Air Base, Israel.

The transfer of the 50 aircraft was promised to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by President Clinton in November 1993 to support the Middle East peace process. The authority for the transfer comes from Presidential Determination 94-20 signed March 31, 1994. The PDD directs the drawdown of \$161.9 million in defence articles and services by the Department of Defence.

These funds will cover the first 35 aircraft which are scheduled to be delivered to Israel this year. The last 15 aircraft will be funded by an additional \$75 million special drawdown authority not yet designated by Congress.

The transfer of these F-16 aircraft supports the Middle East peace process by shoring up Israel's security, thereby reducing the risks inherent in achieving a lasting peace. The Department of Defence and the U.S. Air Force looks forward to continuing its close relationship with the Israeli Air Force.

Jordan reiterates stand

(Continued from page 1)

seini to Jordan to discuss the future of Jerusalem in the light of the Washington Declaration.

"Out of concern for good relations with Jordan, the Palestine National Authority decided in its meeting today to send a delegation to Amman soon," PNA Secretary-General Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim was quoted as saying in a Reuters dispatch from Gaza.

The delegation will "pave the way for a high-level meeting between the Jordanian and Palestinian leadership," said Mr. Abdul Rahim, the former Palestinian ambassador to Jordan and expected to be in the delegation.

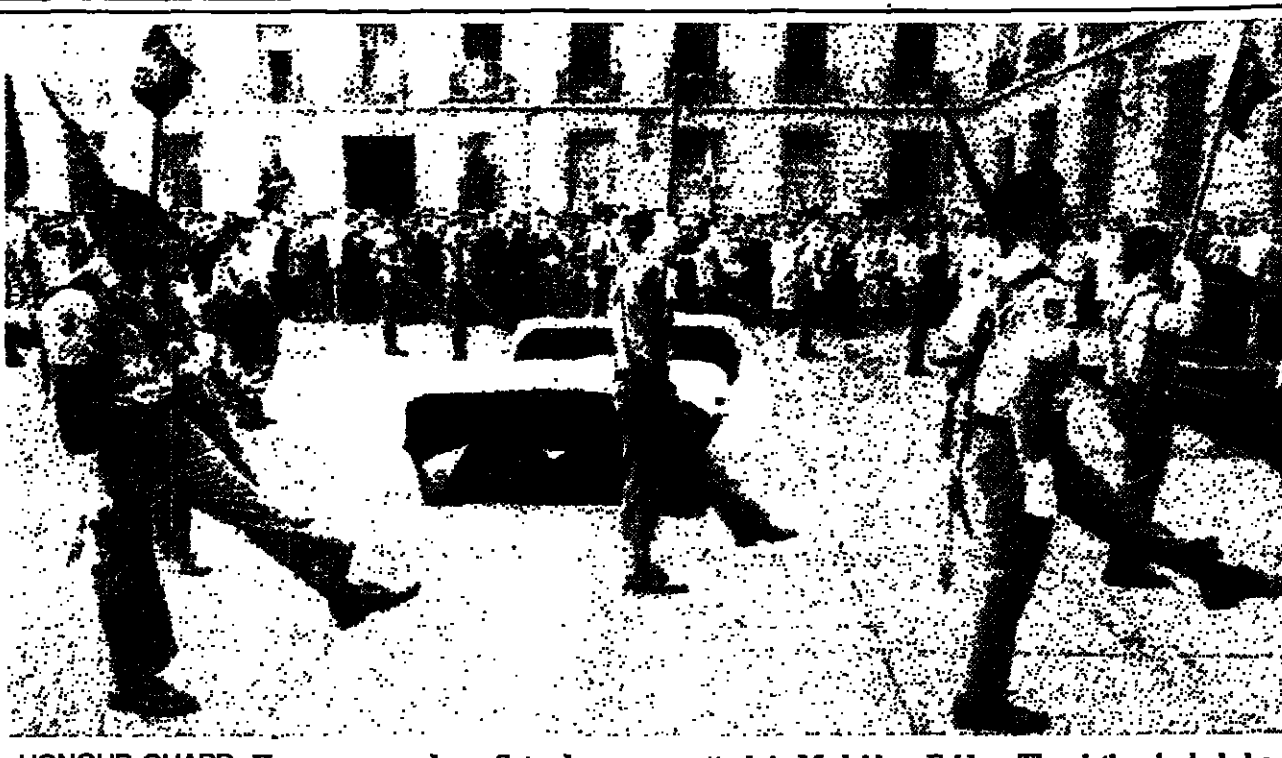
He said the delegation "would discuss with the Jordanian government the latest developments and set future coordination in all fields between the two sides."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is also head of the PNA, meanwhile sent a message to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "stressing the PLO's opposition to the clause on Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration," Agence France Presse (AFP) reported.

The news agency, quoting Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rodeina, said the message said "any attack on the Palestinian rights threatens the whole peace process."

Jerusalem "is an integral part of the occupied territories, and its status must be discussed during negotiations on the final status" of the territories, the letter reportedly said.

The letter, sent to Mr. Christopher through the American consulate in East Jerusalem, also praised American efforts to establish peace in the region. AFP



HONOUR GUARD: Honourary guards on Saturday march past the coffins of those killed in a bomb

attack in Madrid on Friday. The victims included a general (AFP photo).

Unemployment put at 18% in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Statistics Saturday said the total workforce in the Kingdom stood at 859,300 and the rate of unemployment was running at 18.8 per cent of the workforce.

According to a department statement, nearly 763,000 people are employed, of whom 434,806 are working in social and public administration ser-

vices. The second largest employer is the trade and restaurants and hotel sector which employs 129,754 people, followed by the mining sector with 91,086 people, the statement said.

It said the total number of job seekers as registered with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally recruits candidates for working in

government offices, now stands at 96,765.

In November, the government endorsed a development plan for 1993-1997 period entailing an ambitious programme to curb unemployment and reduce its rate to 9.6 per cent by the end of 1997.

The Ministry of Planning said then that the plan provides for invest-

ments in the economic and social and infrastructure sectors that would create 224,000 additional jobs.

According to the department statistics' statement Saturday, non-Jordanian workers with valid work permits now living and working in the Kingdom are 53,021, of whom 37,960 are Egyptians.

U.S. Congress clears way for debt relief

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million in humanitarian and economic aid.

It also provided \$850 million for the former Soviet republics, but, with strong pressure from House Appropriations Committee Chairman Dave Obey, rejected Senate attempts to "earmark" or provide specific amounts for some countries.

Mr. Obey said earmarks make his committee vulnerable "for the kind of demagoguery we have to undergo every day" from members demanding budget cuts while seeking money for their own pet programme.

Instead of obligating the administration, Mr. Obey softened the language to read that the government "should" provide \$150 million to Ukraine, at least \$75 million for Armenia and \$50 million for Georgia.

The total package of \$13.7 billion is more than \$600 million less than was budgeted for 1994. The compromise bill must still be approved on the Senate and House floors before going to the president.

The bill maintains military and economic aid amounts for the perennial big two — Israel again this year is budgeted \$3 billion and

Egypt \$2.1 billion.

It earmarks \$80 million for refugees from the former Soviet Union and East Europe resettling in Israel.

Among other items in the bill were: — \$1.235 billion for the International Development Association, the wing of the World Bank which provides soft loans for poorer nations. — \$802 million for Sub-

Saharan Africa.

— \$671 million for migration and refugee assistance. — \$359 million for Eastern Europe and the Baltic states. — \$220 million for the U.S. Peace Corps programme.

— \$105 million for international narcotics control. — \$50 million for United Nations family planning programmes.

Lebanese on alert against attack

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clare that these charges are without any grain of truth. We are true Muslims and Islam does not allow the killing of civilians, women or children," Sheikh Tufaili said in a Friday sermon at a mosque in the suburbs of south Beirut.

He said his men would fight unto death to repel any major attack Israel mounts in Lebanon.

"Israel is insisting on holding Iran and Hizbollah responsible for the Argentine explosion to justify a major aggression in Lebanon," he said.

"Let everyone throughout the world be informed we will fight unto death and will seek to kill every Israeli who enters Lebanese soil as an aggressor," Sheikh Tufaili said.

In the l'Orient-Le Jour interview, the 46-year-old Tufaili said that missing

Israeli airman Ron Arad was "probably dead."

Arad was captured by Shiite Muslim zealots after his plane was shot down in South Lebanon in 1986. Israeli leaders say they have reasonable evidence showing Arad was still alive although they know nothing about his current whereabouts.

"Iran and Syria have undertaken determined efforts to find this airman to no avail," Sheikh Tufaili said.

"If this man is not in the hands of the fundamentalists, the Iranians or the Syrians, where will he be and what's the reason for holding him all this time?" the cleric added.

"It seems obvious to me that Ron Arad is probably dead. He might have died in an accident and this is why not even his body has appeared," he said.

Save water...
every drop counts